

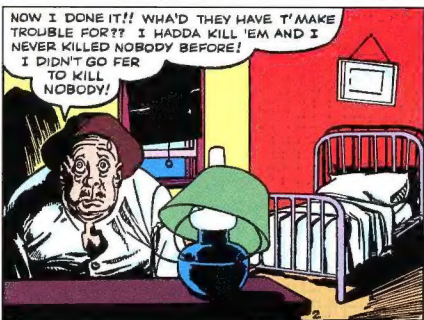
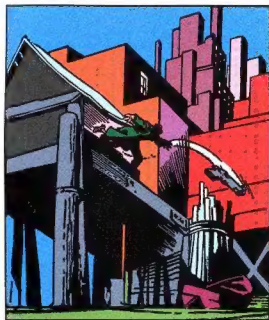
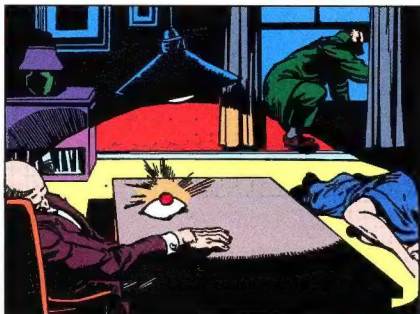
COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

THE CURSE OF THE RUBY

January 3 1943

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE





THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, **SPIRIT!** THE SLUGS CAME FROM A GUN WE'VE HAD LISTED AS LEFTY TASKS!



THEN WHY NOT NAIL TASKS?

WE DID --AND GOT NOWHERE! THE GUN IS GONE! LEFTY SWEARS IT WAS STOLEN AND WE CAN'T PROVE DIFFERENT!



AND YOU WONDER WHY I PREFER BEING AN OUTLAW, DOLAN...

THE DIRTIEST KIND OF MURDER! YOU KNOW WHO DID IT -- AND FOR WANT OF EVIDENCE, A RAT GOES FREE!

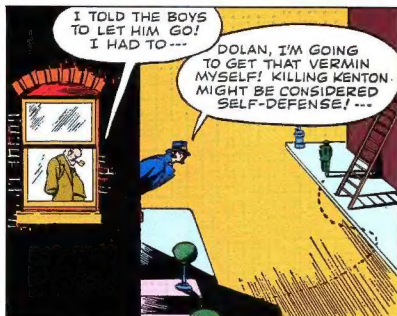


DON'T RUB IT IN! I'D ALMOST TRADE MY JOB AS POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR ONE HOUR ALONE WITH THAT SUPER-STITIOUS WEASEL!



DID YOU SAY SUPERSTITIOUS?

WORST I EVER SAW! LOOK! -- THERE HE GOES NOW!



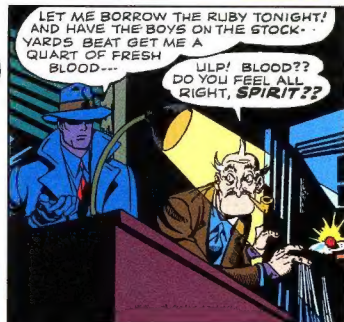
I TOLD THE BOYS TO LET HIM GO! I HAD TO ---

DOLAN, I'M GOING TO GET THAT VERMIN MYSELF! KILLING KENTON MIGHT BE CONSIDERED SELF-DEFENSE! ---



BUT, MURDERING THAT INNOCENT MAID WHO BLUNDERED IN WAS THE ACT OF A CRAVEN, CORNERED RAT!

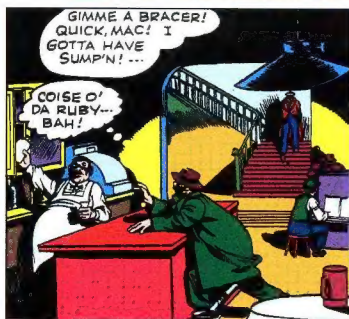
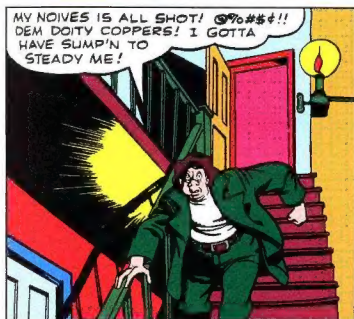
THAT'S OBVIOUS! HE WAS SO PANICKY THEN, HE FLED WITHOUT THE VERY LOOT HE KILLED FOR! I HOPE YOU DO GET HIM, **SPIRIT!**

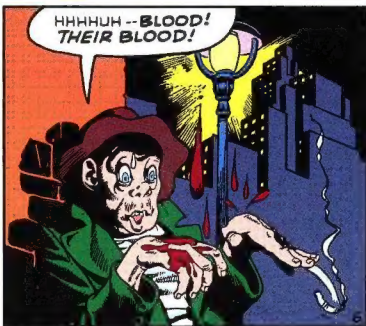


LET ME BORROW THE RUBY TONIGHT! AND HAVE THE BOYS ON THE STOCK- YARDS BEAT GET ME A QUART OF FRESH BLOOD---

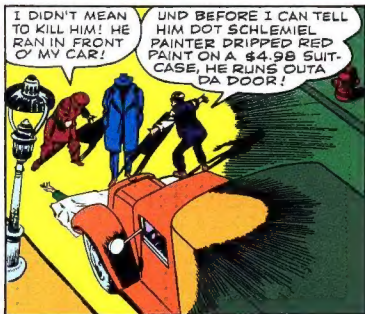
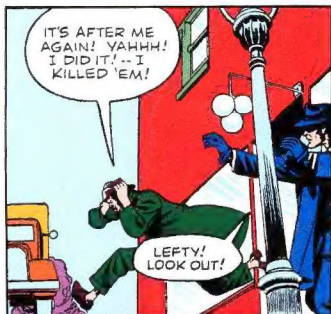
ULP! BLOOD?? DO YOU FEEL ALL RIGHT, **SPIRIT??**











COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

THE LADY IN BLACK

January 10 1943

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE



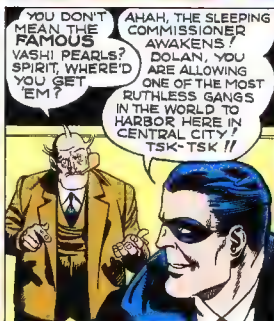
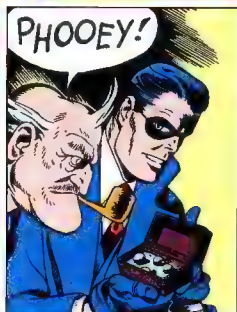
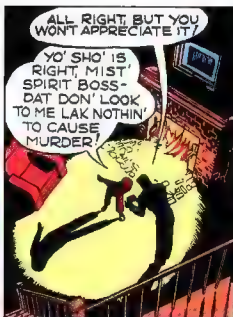
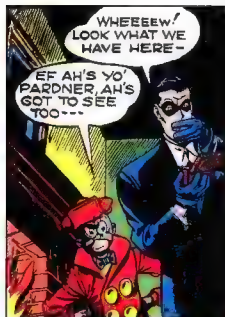
THROUGH A GRIM, DARK SECTION OF CENTRAL CITY, WHERE BLINKING STREET LAMPS CAST THEIR CREEPY SHADOWS, WALK THE SPIRIT AND HIS ASSISTANT, EBONY WHITE- THEY ARE HEADED TOWARD THEIR WILDWOOD CEMETERY HOME, AND ALL IS PEACEFUL UNTIL

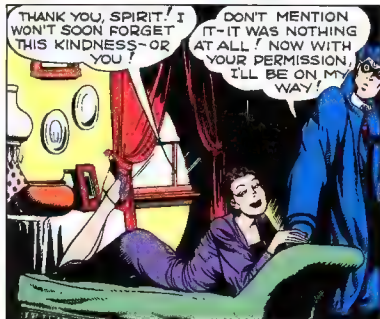
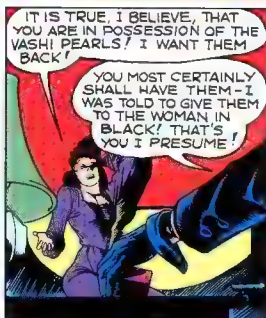
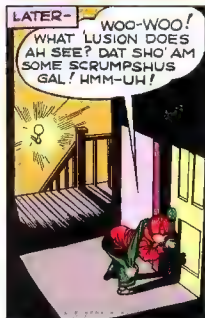
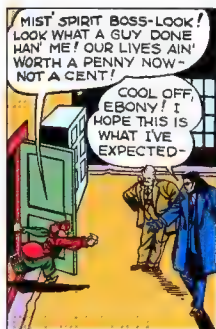


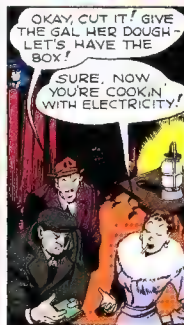
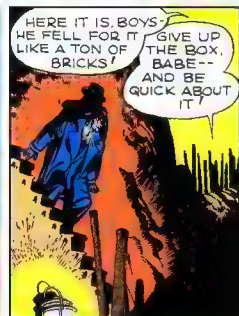
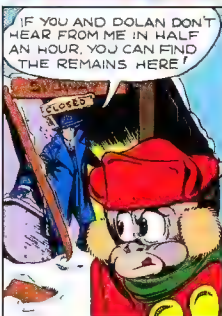


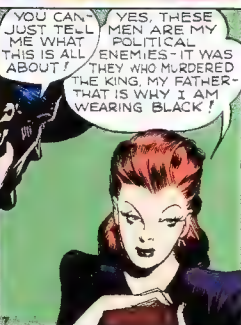
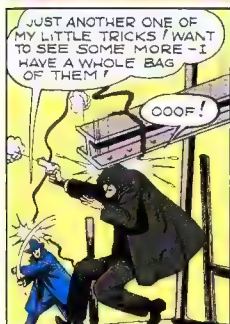
AND AT WILDWOOD, THE UNDERGROUND HOME OF THE SPIRIT---











THROUGH A POLITICAL TRICK, I WAS EXILED - THE ROYAL PEARLS ARE PRICELESS, THEY WERE TO MAKE POSSIBLE MY RETURN TO THE THRONE - THEN, THEY WERE STOLEN -

TELL ME THE ENTIRE STORY - *Sigh*:

MEANWHILE - IT'S BEEN THIRTY MINUTES! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THE SPIRIT - LET'S GO IN -

OH, MAH PO! SPIRIT-AH KNOWNED AH NEEDED TO GO ALONG!

LASKI WAS MY LOYAL SUBJECT! HE JOINED THEIR PARTY, PRETENDED TO BE A FRIEND AND ACQUIRED THE PEARLS - HE WAS BRINGING THEM TO ME - THE NIGHT HE WAS - SHOT!

I KNOW, AND HIS ONLY THOUGHT WAS OF YOU AND THE PEARLS!

OH, HELLO, DOLAN! DID I KEEP YOU WAITING? THE PRINCESS AND I HAVE BEEN HAVING A VISIT - HERE ARE YOUR CRIMINALS, DOLAN!

BAH!

AH'S DISGUSTED!

LATER, AT WILDWOOD.....

WHAT AH CAN'T UNDERSTAN! MIST SPIRIT BOSS, IS HOW YO' KNEW DAT WOMAN IN BLACK WASN'T DE REAL PRINCESS??

PRINCESS - ? *Sighuuu!*

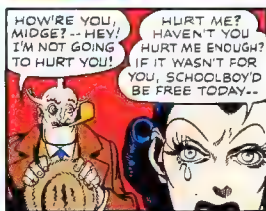
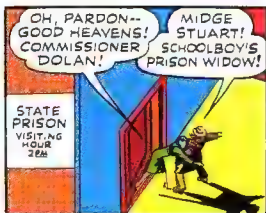
AN' WHY FO' DID YO' GIVE HER DE PEARLS??

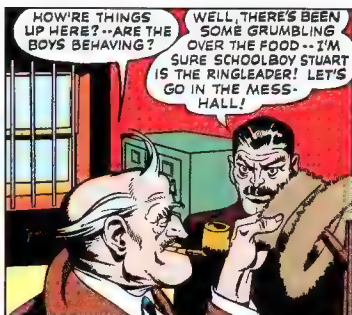
ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON - ELEMENTARY!

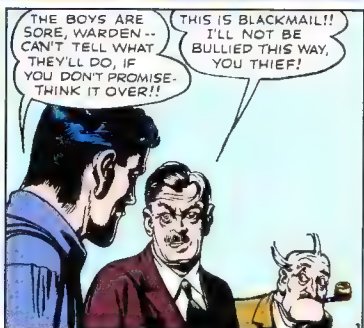
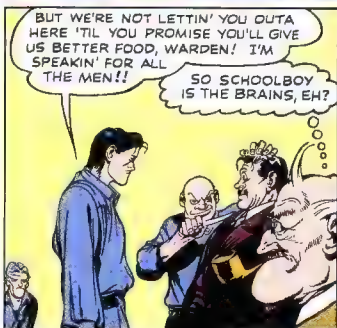
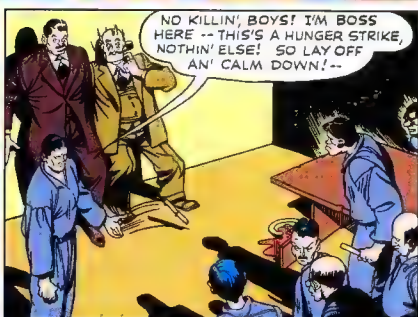
I KNEW SHE WAS A PHONEY BECAUSE THE BOX I GAVE HER WAS A FAKE - IN FACT, IT WAS THE CIGARETTE BOX DOLAN GAVE ME FOR CHRISTMAS LAST YEAR - THE 5 AND 10, IS FULL OF THEM!

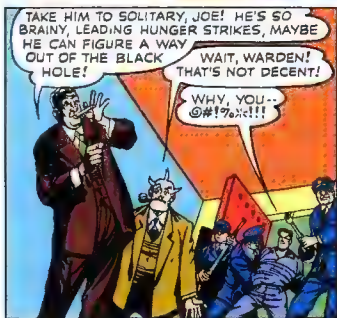
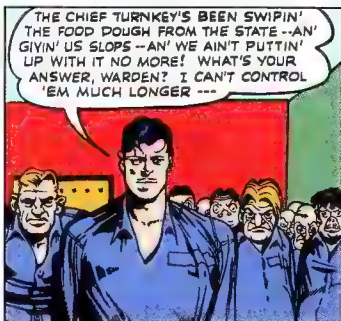
THE REAL PRINCESS WOULD HAVE KNOWN THE DIFFERENCE! SIMPLE MATTER OF DEDUCTION, EH, EBONY?

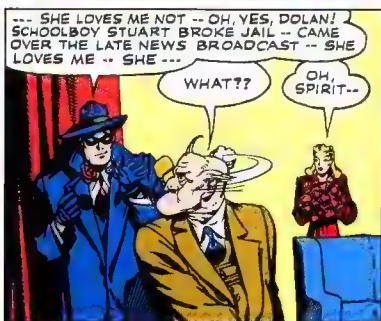
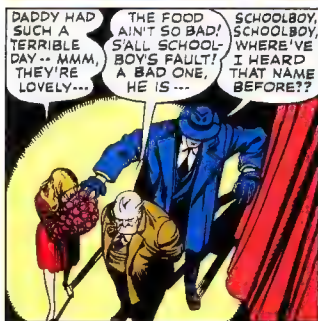
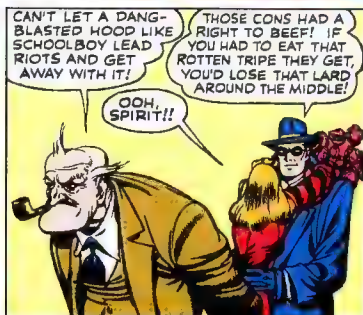
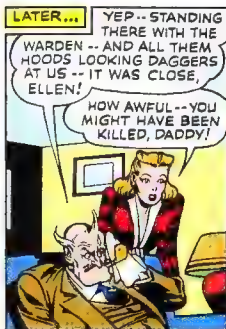
WHY CAN'T AH KEEPS MAH BIG MOUF SHUT !!





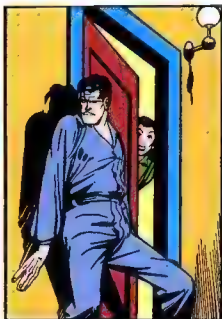








AT THIS MOMENT, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN ...



SCHOOLBOY, DARLING!! I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS!! YOU'RE FREE --- THEY LET YOU OUT!!



I BUSTED OUT! QUICK! GET THE STUFF TOGETHER! WE'RE MOVING -- FAST!

BUSTED OUT! OH, DARLING! NO! YOU WERE UP FOR PAROLE SOON! WHY DID YOU DO IT?



THE WARDEN KEPT RIDING ME! PUT ME IN THE HOLE! SAID HE'D BREAK ME! I COULDN'T TAKE IT! STOP SNIVELIN' AN' GET PACKED! I GOT SOMETHIN' TO ATTEND TO, FIRST!

AFTER TEN YEARS! ---THE WARDEN, HE'LL HUNT US, NIGHT AND DAY-- SOB!--YOU KNOW HOW HE HATES US--AND WHY--



MEANWHILE...

GO GET HIM YOURSELF! I'M BUSY! -- TA-TA, DOLAN!

SPIRIT, YOU'LL LIKE THIS CASE -- ALL WE'VE GOTTA DO IS CATCH HIM BEFORE HE LIGHTS OUT OF TOWN! WE'LL WATCH THE TRAINS, BUSES ---IT'S A CINCH!--



I'LL HANDLE THIS MY WAY!



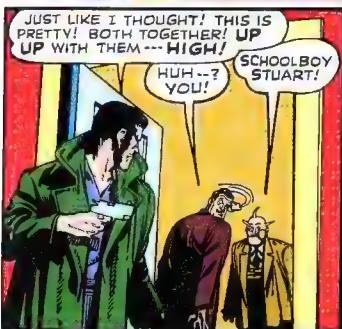
DOLAN, YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A DOPE! STUART'S VICIOUS, CLEVER! HE'LL STOP AT NOTHING! HE HATES YOU, BUT HOW HE'D LOVE TO GET AT ME!

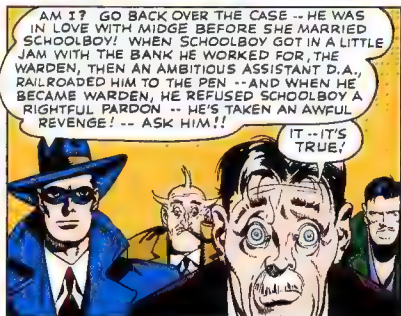
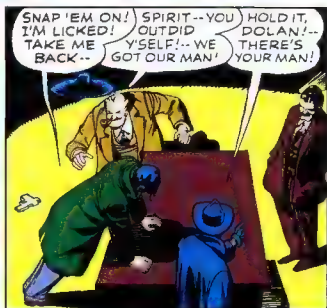
CALM DOWN, WARDEN! MAYBE IF YOU'D SERVED BETTER GRUB, HE'D STILL BE IN THE PEN---

HOW DARE YOU INSINUATE THAT I --- LOOK HERE, DOLAN, YOU RUN YOUR FORCE, I'LL RUN MY PRISON! I'LL GET OUT HIS RECORD AND I'LL MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH TO TRACK HIM DOWN!

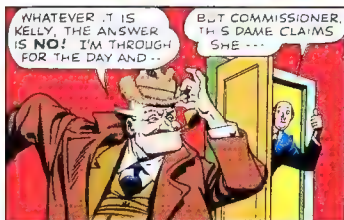
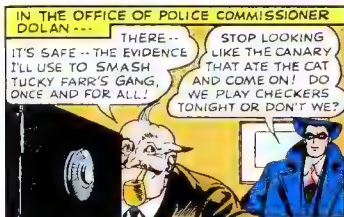
KIND OF TOUCHY ON THE SUBJECT OF FOOD, AREN'T YOU?

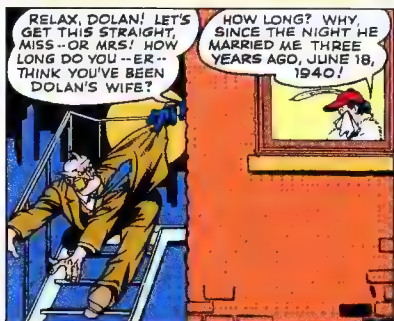
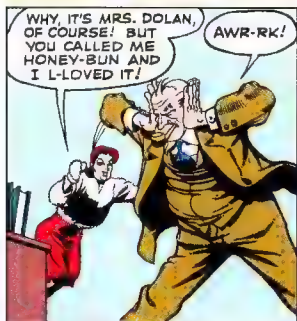
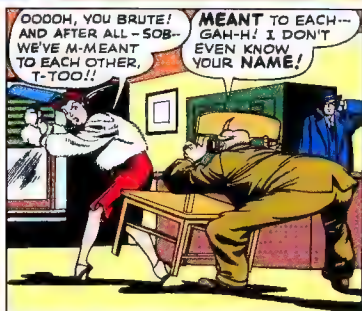
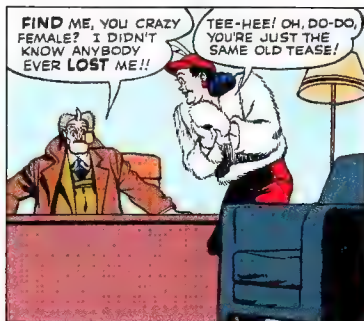
MAYBE THE SPIRIT WAS RIGHT!

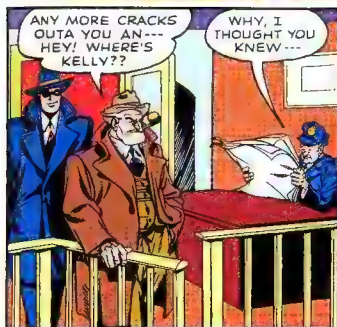
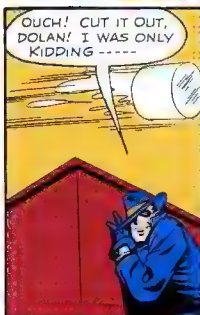
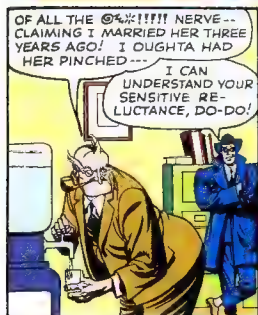


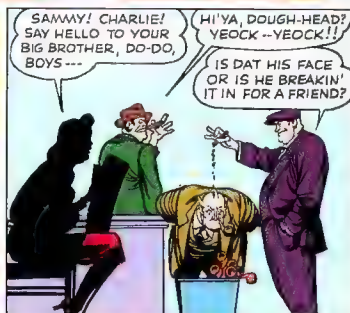
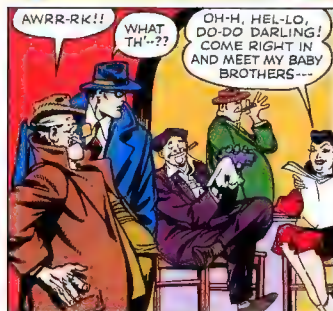
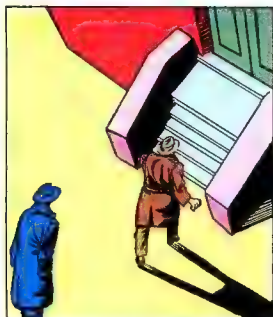


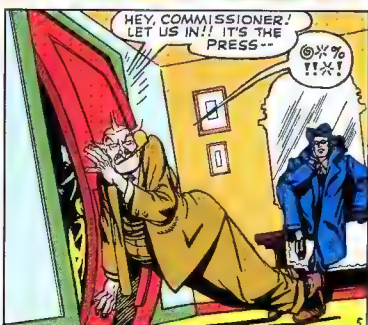
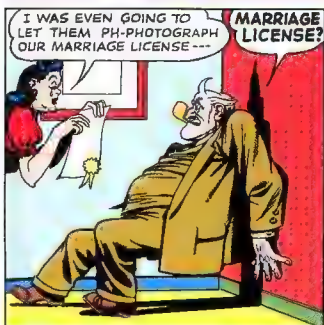
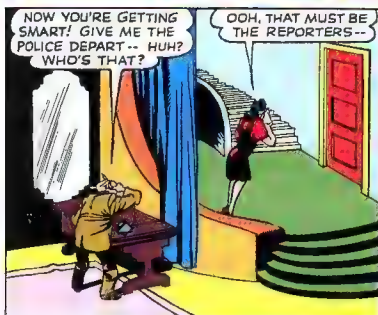
THE SPIRIT



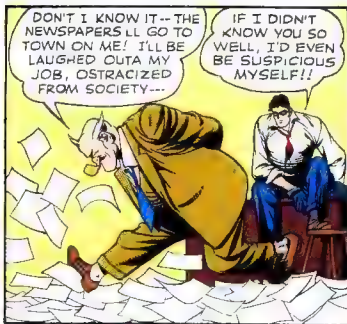
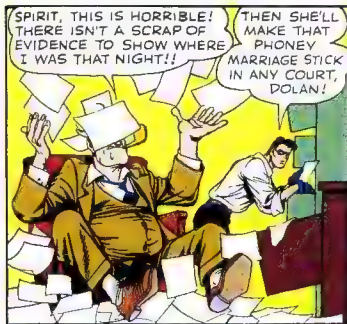














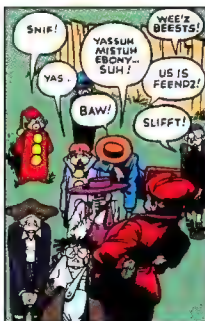
**COMIC
BOOK
SECTION**

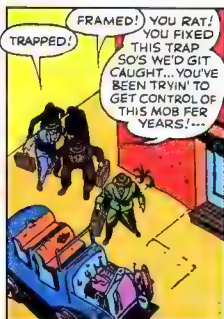
THE SPIRIT'S SUPER SCRAPPERS

February 7 1943

**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**







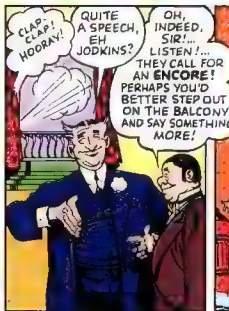
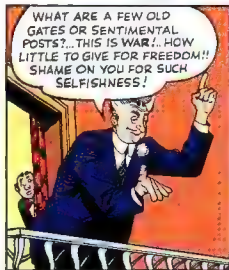
BUT MEANWHILE... INEXORABLY AS FATE ITSELF, THE WAVE OF ENDEAVOR UNLEASHED BY EBONY, EBBS AND FLOWS ON, UNMINDFUL OF THE EDDIES OF TRAGEDY LEFT IN ITS WAKE...



IN EACH CASE A CARD WAS LEFT BEHIND SAYING THAT THE SCRAP METAL WAS TAKEN BY THE SPIRIT'S SUPER SCRAPPERS!

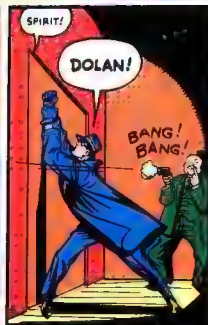
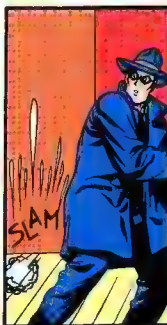
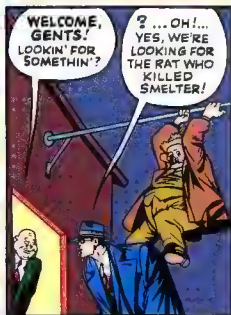
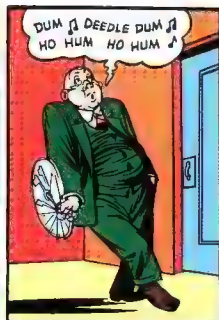
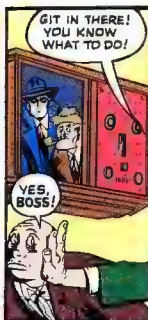


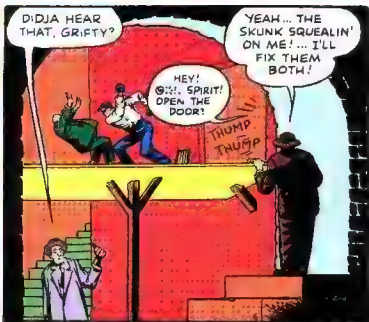
TELL SENATOR McCURDLE TO COME OUT -- HE'S THE SCRAP COMMISSIONER IN THIS DISTRICT!

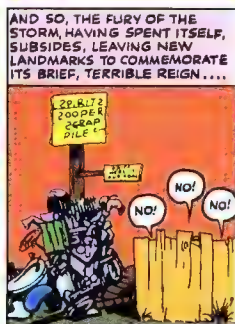
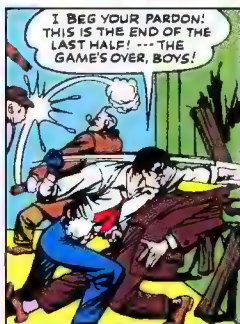


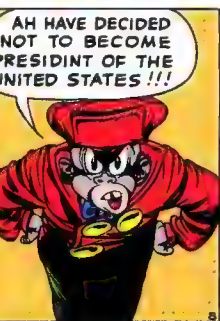
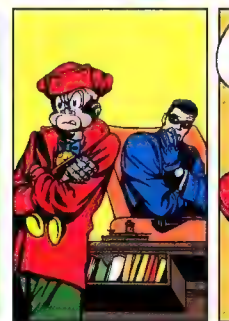
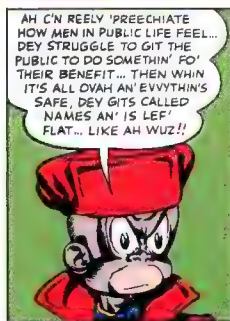
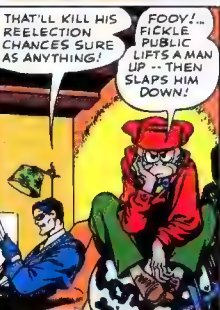
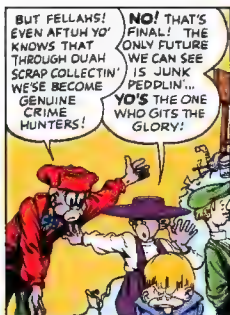
AND THE SCRAP PILE GROWS HIGHER AS EBONY TRIES VAINLY TO STEM THE TIDE!...









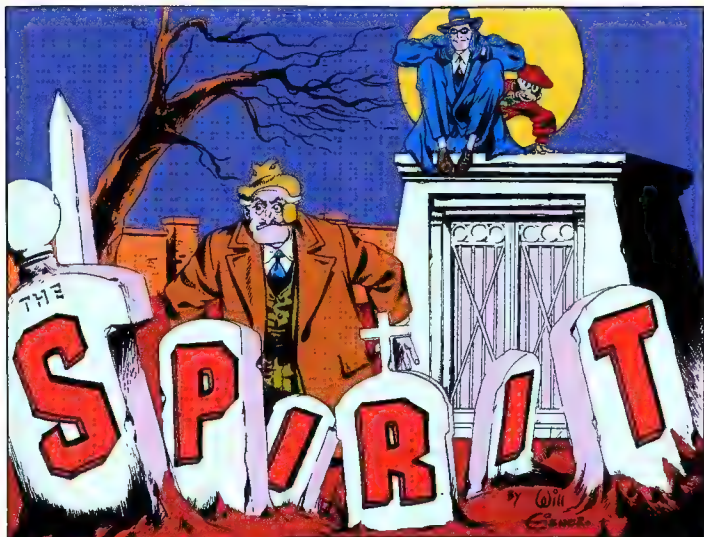


**COMIC
BOOK
SECTION**

THE BROTHERHOOD OF SWIVETS

February 14 1943

**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**



*"Deep night - dark night -
the silent of the night -
when watch-dogs howl
and ghosts break up
their graves -- that
time best suits the
work we have in hand..."*

MR. W. SHAKESPEARE, YOU
SAID A MOUTHFUL!

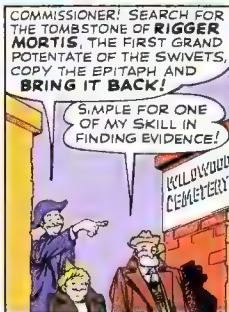
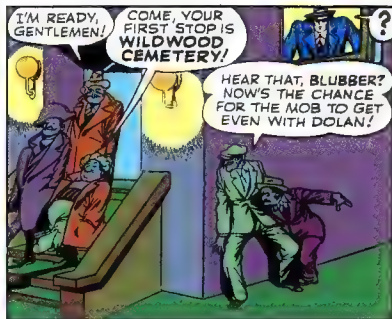
COME WITH US FOR A
QUIET EVENING IN
WILDWOOD CEMETERY--
AND
DON'T FORGET THE
SMELLING SALTS!

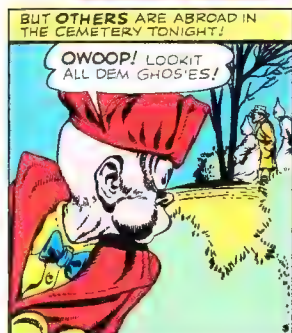
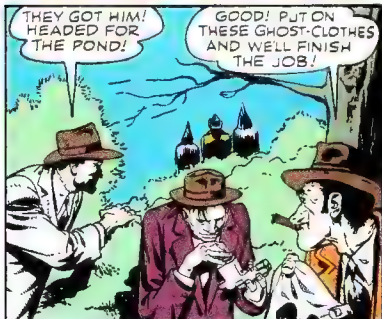
OUT OF MY OFFICE, SPIRIT,
YOU POOR PLEBEIAN OUT-
LAW! I'M JUST A TRIFLE
TOO IMPORTANT TO DALLY
WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!

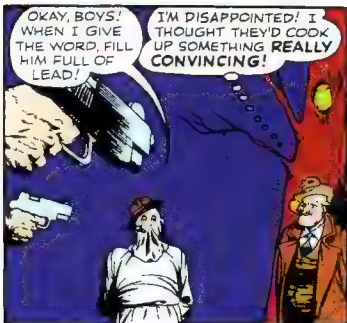
EXPLAIN,
PLEASE,
DOLAN!

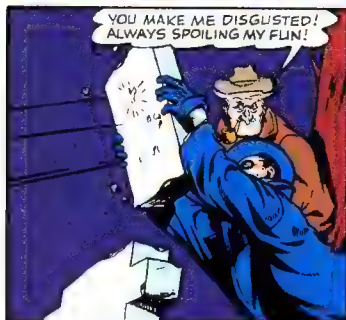
EXPLAIN? SURE! IN
RECOGNITION OF MY
DISTINGUISHED RECORD
AS POLICE COMMISSIONER,
I'M BEING INITIATED
TONIGHT INTO THE BROTHER-
HOOD OF SWIVETS!

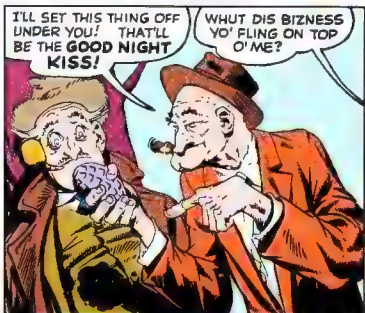
















LATER - AT COMMISSIONER DOLAN'S OFFICE---

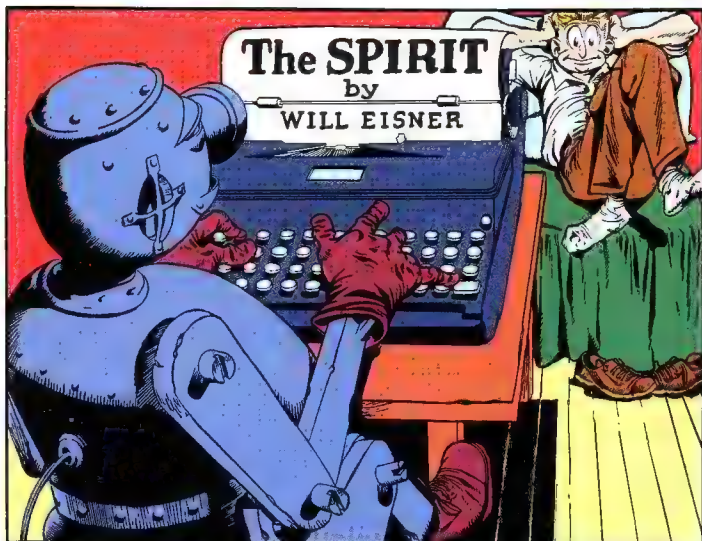


**COMIC
BOOK
SECTION**

AUTOMATIC AUTHOR

February 21 1943

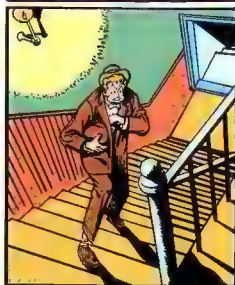
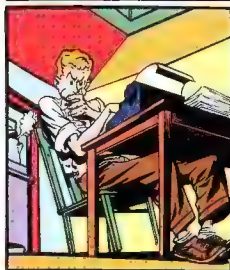
**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**



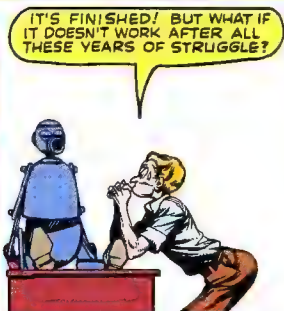
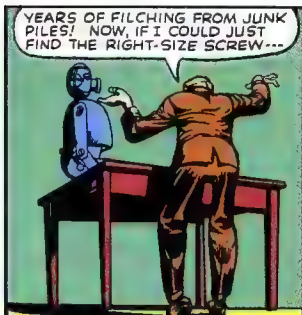
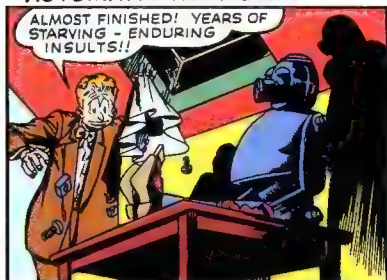
CICERO SWUNK WAS AN
AUTHOR....

BUT NOT A VERY GOOD ONE!!

HE HAD ONE BURNING DESIRE...



...TO COMPLETE HIS INVENTION -- OSCAR, THE
AUTOMATIC AUTHOR!!!



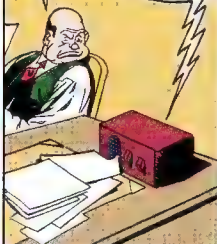
BEFORE THE DAY WAS AN HOUR OLDER ---

YOU!! WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO DESERVE THIS FATE?

MR. MUPPET, PLEASE! AT ONCE!!



SWUNK?? WHAT'S HE HAS A STORY FOR YOU!



GROOAN! MY KID GOT MEASLES, THE MAID QUIT, MY WIFE BURNED THE BREAKFAST AND MY MOTHER-IN-LAW IS COMING FOR A MONTH'S VISIT!!



OKAY, SEND HIM IN!! I CAN STAND ANYTHING BY NOW!



A N-NOVEL! AND IT'S GOOD!!

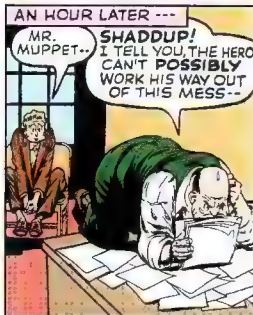
YEAH?? WHO WROTE IT???



AN HOUR LATER ---

MR. MUPPET--

SHADDUP! I TELL YOU, THE HERO CAN'T POSSIBLY WORK HIS WAY OUT OF THIS MESS--



MISTER SWUNK! COME ALONG, OLD MAN! WE'LL HAVE A BITE OF LUNCH AT MY CLUB AND TALK THINGS OVER!!

YOU MEAN YOU'LL **BUY** THE STORY??



WELL, WITH A LITTLE FIXING HERE AND THERE, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE IT! NOT AT FULL RATE, Y'UNNERSTAND, BUT--



I
WAS THE
BEGINNING
OF THE
DELUGE!

"OSCAR"
WROTE
TIRELESSLY
AND
WITHIN
A
MONTH...

SWUNK! SWUNK!
THE MAN MUST BE
QUINTUPLETS TO
WRITE ALL THAT!

AH DUNNO, MIST'
SPIRIT BOSS, BUT
HE SHO' MUS' HAVE
A TEE-RIFIC
REMAGINATION!!



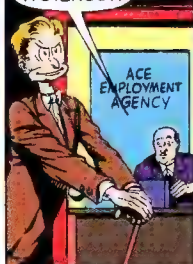
IN PLACE OF THE DINGY
GARRET---



AND IN PLACE OF THE OLD
TATTERED CICERO SWUNK...



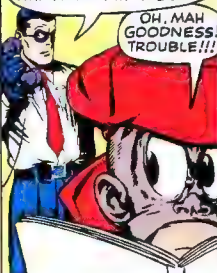
BOSS, A GUY OUT
HERE WANTS A HIRE
A STENOGRAPH!!



WELL, EBONY - DO
I HAVE TO ANSWER
THE PHONE??



HELLO? YES,... WHO?...
OH, WILL EISNER?? YES!
WHA-A-AT??? ... WOW!

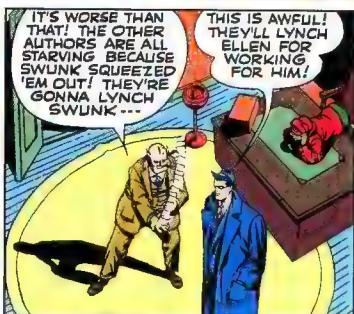
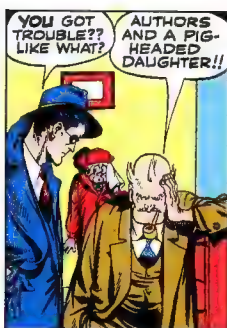
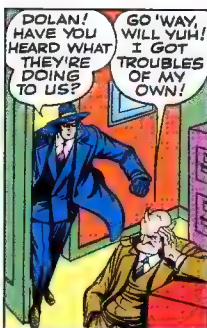


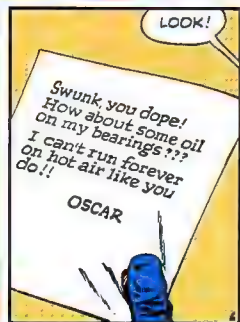
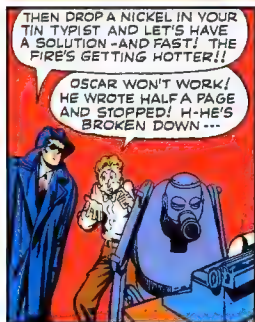
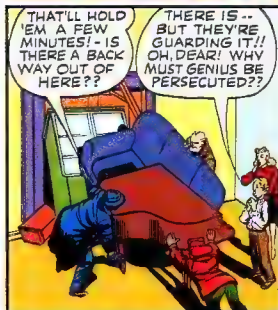
OF ALL THE--! HE CAN'T
DO THAT TO US! I
WON'T STAND FOR
IT!! I--I--

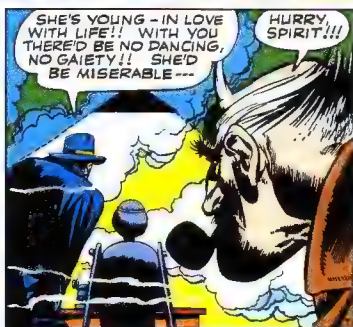
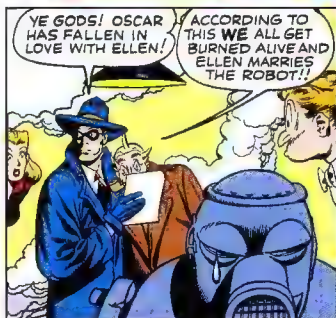
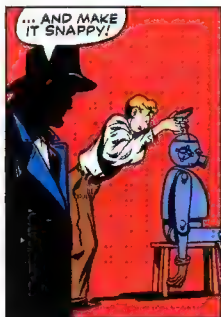


MATTER? THE EDITOR JUST
FIRED WILL EISNER AND
GAVE THE JOB OF WRITING
THE SPIRIT TO SWUNK AND
HIS AUTOMATIC AUTHOR!!





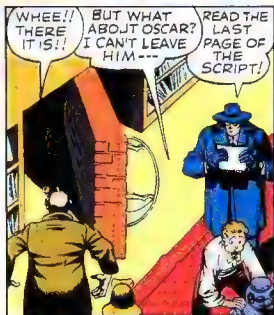






All old mansions
have secret
passages!!

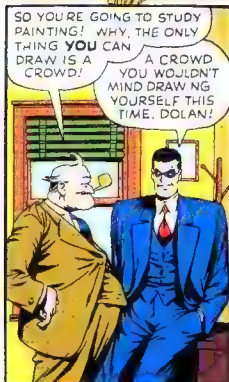
Push third
brick from
top in
fireplace!!



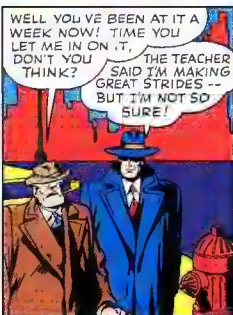
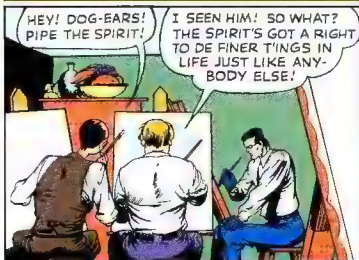
Last panel:
Group fleeing
down passage
as Robot commits
suicide over
unrequited love!

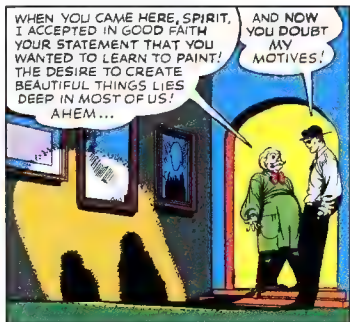
THE END...





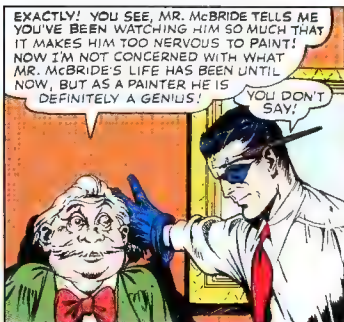
THE SPIRIT ENROLLS IN THE VON GOGLE ART SCHOOL WHERE "TURKEY" WHELAN AND "DOG-EARS" MCBRIDE ARE ALREADY STUDENTS





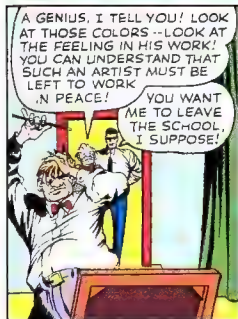
WHEN YOU CAME HERE, SPIRIT, I ACCEPTED IN GOOD FAITH YOUR STATEMENT THAT YOU WANTED TO LEARN TO PAINT! THE DESIRE TO CREATE BEAUTIFUL THINGS LIES DEEP IN MOST OF US! AH... AH...

AND NOW YOU DOUBT MY MOTIVES!



EXACTLY! YOU SEE, MR. McBRIDE TELLS ME YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING HIM SO MUCH THAT IT MAKES HIM TOO NERVOUS TO PAINT! NOW I'M NOT CONCERNED WITH WHAT MR. McBRIDE'S LIFE HAS BEEN UNTIL NOW, BUT AS A PAINTER HE IS DEFINITELY A GENIUS!

YOU DON'T SAY!



A GENIUS, I TELL YOU! LOOK AT THOSE COLORS --LOOK AT THE FEELING IN HIS WORK! YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH AN ARTIST MUST BE LEFT TO WORK IN PEACE!

YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL, I SUPPOSE!



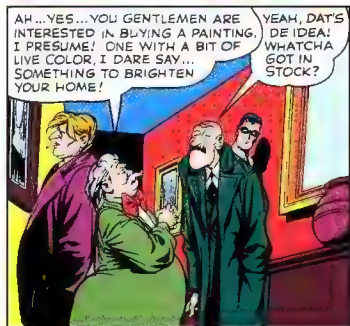
B-BUT I WANT TO LEARN TO BE A GREAT PAINTER LIKE McBRIDE, TOO!

THERE, THERE, SPIRIT! MAYBE SCULPTURE IS YOUR FORTÉ--OR SINGING! YES, WHY DON'T YOU TRY SINGING?



"FINGERS" KELSEY AND "PORKY" WILLIAMS! THE PLOT THICKENS, AS THEY SAY IN THE COMICS!

YOU DE OWNER OF DIS JOINT... ER... I MEAN ESTABLISHMENT?



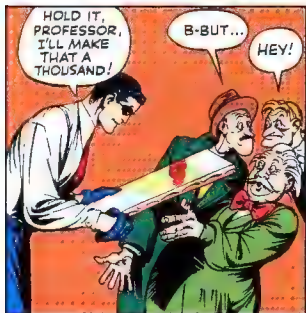
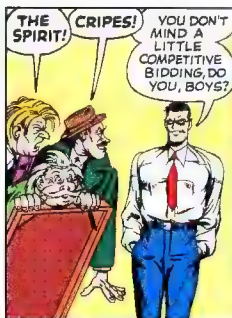
AH...YES...YOU GENTLEMEN ARE INTERESTED IN BUYING A PAINTING, I PRESUME! ONE WITH A BIT OF LIVE COLOR, I DARE SAY... SOMETHING TO BRIGHTEN YOUR HOME!

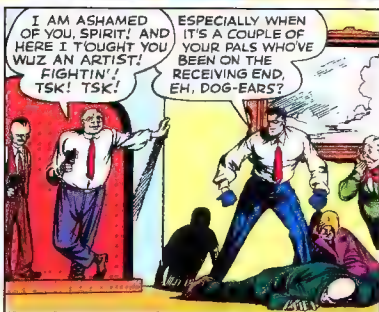
YEAH, DAT'S DE IDEA! WHATCHA GOT IN STOCK?

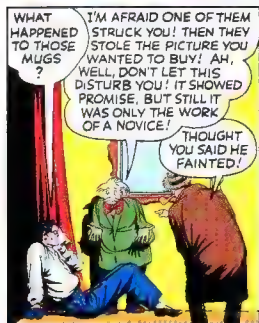
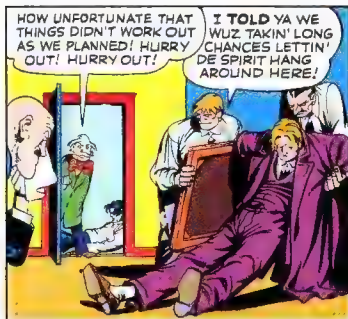


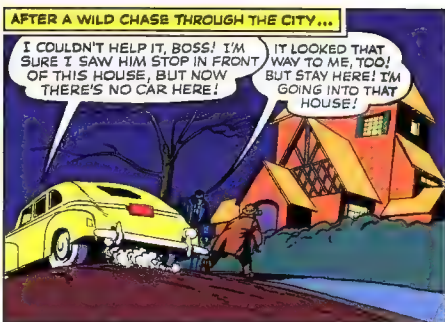
NOW THIS LITTLE CANVAS... DONE BY ONE WHO IS AN UNKNOWN AT THE MOMENT... BUT I ASSURE YOU IT'S A MASTERPIECE! MR. McBRIDE'S WORK WILL COMMAND A FORTUNE SOMEDAY!

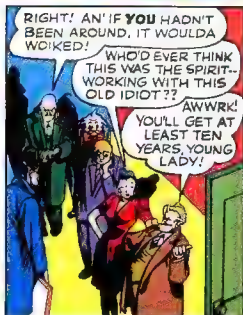
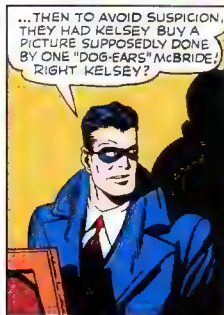
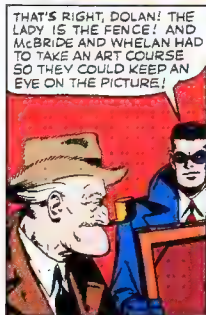
YEAH, DAT DON'T LOOK BAD! WILL YOU TAKE TWO HUNDRED BUCKS FOR IT?











March 7 1943

The SPIRIT

La
Reports
Algic
Africa

CLASS OF '33...

WILLIAM BRANDE,
CLASS POET...
HIS VERSE MAY BE
ASININE, BUT WE ALL
LOVE HIS SISTER...
OH, SO DIVINE!

ROGER RANDOLPH,
CLASS ATHLETE...
IF BRAINS HAD BICEPS,
"RAJ" WOULD BE
MUSCLE-BOUND...
ASK "STEADY ED"!

EDWARD R. STEAD,
CLASS SCHOLAR...
"STEADY ED" -- OUR
BET FOR MOST LIKELY
TO SUCCEED!

DENNY COLT,
CLASS WISEMAN...
BELOVED BY ALL, DENNY'S
OUR CLASS STANDOUT! IF
YOU'RE IN A JAM, HE'LL
HELP YOU OUT! HATS
OFF TO YOU, DENNY!

**Only Commissioner Dolan knows
that THE SPIRIT is really
Denny Colt, long believed dead...**

Will Eisner

MY COLLEGE CLASS REUNION!
STRANGE HOW FAMILIAR THEIR
FACES...EVEN AFTER ALL
THESE YEARS...

Dear Classmate:
You are hereby
invited to attend
the Tenth Annual
Reunion of our class,
at the Waldorf Towers...
Dress Formal...

Wm. Edward R. Stead
14 West 42nd
City

STRANGER STILL THAT THEY
HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME...

BILL BRANDE... HE ONLY STOOD OUT BECAUSE OF HIS SISTER, MARION! YES, THEY ALL LOVED HER... I OUGHT TO KNOW!



ROGER RANDOLPH -- "THE RAJ"! "ASK STEADY ED," EH? ASK ME? HE LOVED HER, TOO -- CURSE HIS BLASTED BLACK SOUL!



I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM FOR WHAT HE DID TO ME!!



I WOULD HAVE KILLED RAJ BUT FOR YOU, DENNY! ... IN THIS BOOK WE WERE SIDE BY SIDE, AND SO WE WERE IN SCHOOL -- UNTIL THAT DAY---



"WHEN WE BEGAN TAKING OUR FINAL EXAMINATIONS."



"ROGER KNEW I HATED HIM FOR LYING TO MARION ABOUT ME... TURNING HER AGAINST ME, BUT STILL HE -----"



PSST! ED! WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION?

CRIBBING'S NOT HONORABLE! I WON'T TELL YOU!



I KNOW, I KNOW! BUT IF YOU DON'T, I'LL FLUNK OUT! I WON'T GRADUATE! ED! HAVE A HEART! PLEASE, ED ---

"WHAT MADE ME GIVE IN TO HIM, I'LL NEVER KNOW! BUT I SCRIBBLED MY ANSWER AND SLIPPED IT TO HIM..."



I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS ED-- NEVER!



"I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU, ED! ... BUT LATER, AFTER THE EXAM, IN THE SUGAR BOWL ---"

BUT MARION, YOU PROMISE TO GO TO THE PROM WITH ME--

WITH YOU? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH... NOT AFTER WHAT RAJ'S TOLD ME ABOUT YOU!



"AND THEN IT HAPPENED! PROFESSOR MANLEY SENT FOR RAJ AND ME ---"

BOTH OF THESE PAPERS SHOW THE SAME ERRORS! OBVIOUSLY, ONE OF YOU COPIED! SPEAK UP -- THIS IS SERIOUS!



I HATE TO SAY THIS, PROFESSOR -- BUT ED COPIED FROM ME! I WARNED HIM, BUT---

WHY, YOU DIRTY--

MR. STEAD! REPORT TO THE DEAN'S OFFICE-- AT ONCE!



"IT DIDN'T TAKE THE DEAN LONG TO MAKE UP HIS MIND... IN FACT, AS I REMEMBER, IT TOOK HIM ONLY FIVE MINUTES..."

MR. STEAD, YOU WILL PACK YOUR THINGS AND BE OFF THE COLLEGE GROUNDS WITHIN THE HOUR!

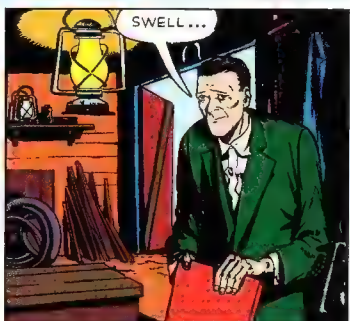
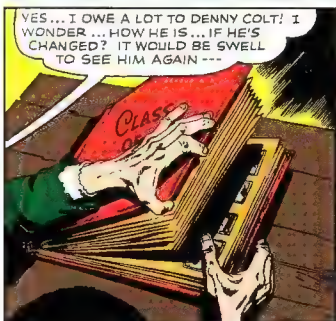


"MY MIND WAS A BLANK -- I WALKED TOWARD THE DORM TO PACK MY THINGS, WHEN ---"

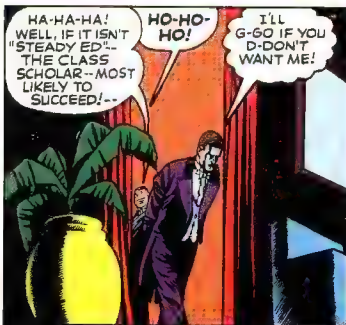
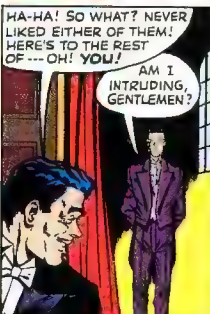
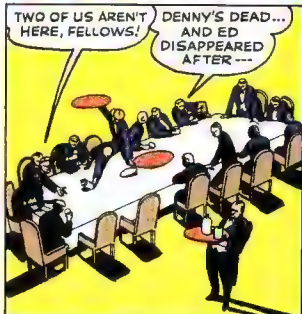
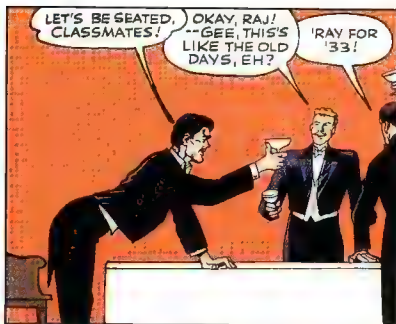
THE EXAM CRIBBER! HA-HA-HA!

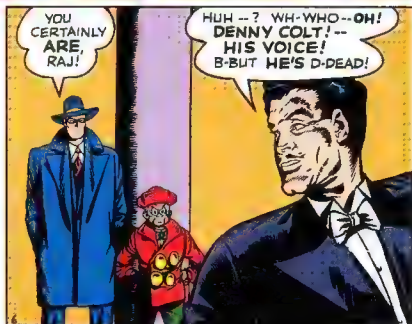
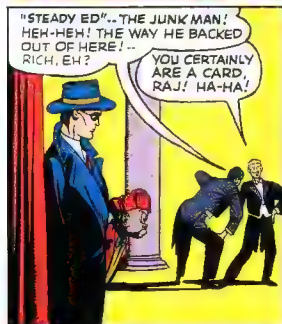
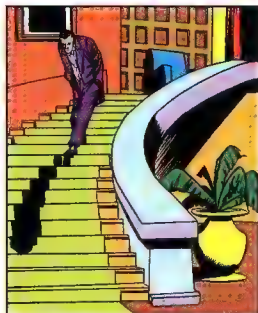
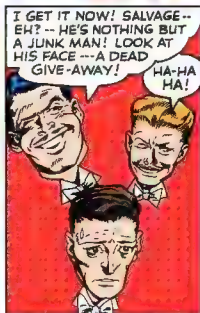
I DON'T KNOW HOW I EVER COULD HAVE LIKED HIM!

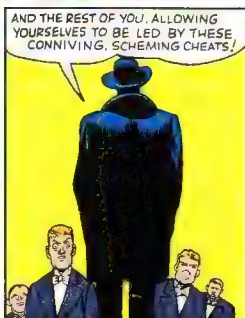




AND SO WE TURN TO THE WALDORF TOWERS, THAT NIGHT....









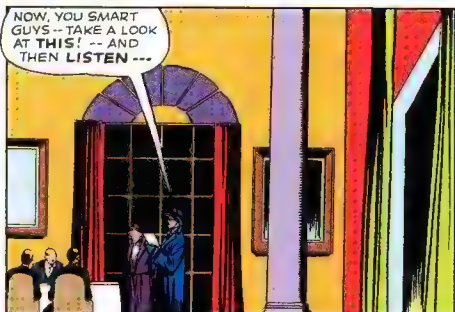
YOU KNOW THIS MAN, I
SEE I SAID **SQUAT!**
... COME HERE, ED!



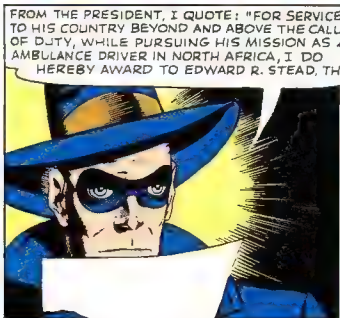
YOU KNEW HIM WELL ENOUGH
TO HUMILIATE HIM! YOU LAUGHED
AT HIM! -- SNEERED! MADE YOU
FEEL GOOD, DIDN'T IT? BUT YOU
ONLY **THOUGHT** YOU KNEW
HIM -----



BEFORE I TURN SOME OF
YOU OVER TO THE PROPER
AUTHORITIES, I HAVE
SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!
GIVE ME THAT PAPER YOU'VE
JUST RECEIVED, ED ---



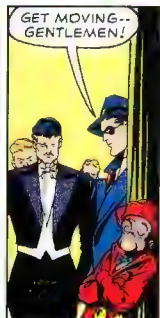
NOW, YOU SMART
GUYS -- TAKE A LOOK
AT **THIS!** -- AND
THEN **LISTEN** ---



FROM THE PRESIDENT, I QUOTE: "FOR SERVICE
TO HIS COUNTRY BEYOND AND ABOVE THE CALL
OF DUTY, WHILE PURSUING HIS MISSION AS
AMBULANCE DRIVER IN NORTH AFRICA, I DO
HEREBY AWARD TO EDWARD R. STEAD, THE--



**CONGRESSIONAL
MEDAL OF
HONOR!**



GET MOVING--
GENTLEMEN!

COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

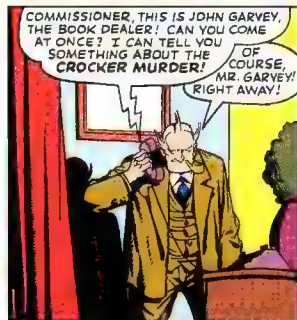
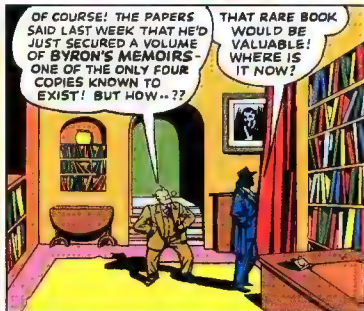
BYRON'S MEMOIRS

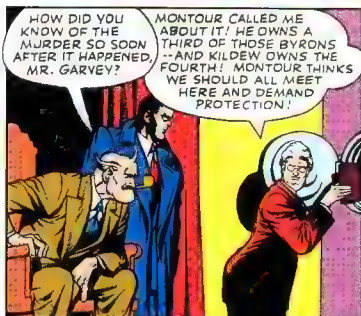
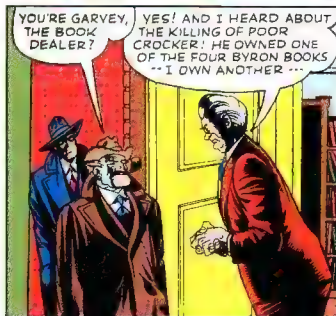
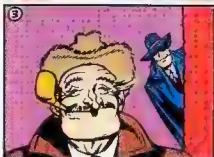
March 14 1943

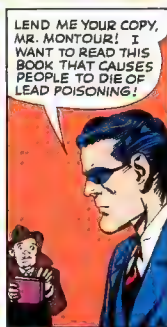
ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE



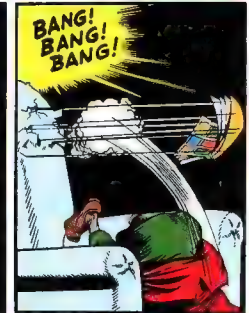
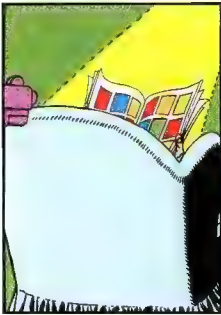
A THOUSAND CRIMES have started this way -- simply, grimly!! ... and a thousand times have the police arrested the butler, maid, janitor, and the ice man... All scientifically deduced! Yet, when they get the *REAL* killer -- "in the end" -- it is *NOT* by pure science. *WHY?* Because crime and its detection is a fine art. *In crime*, two and two do not always make four, and evidence cannot always be measured by inches or feet!















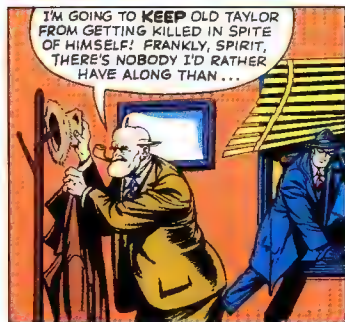
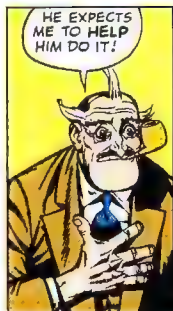
COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

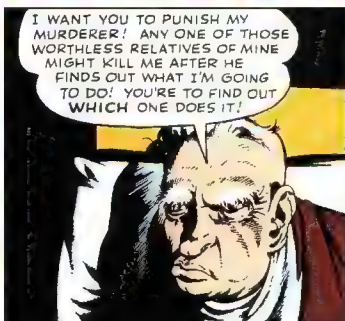
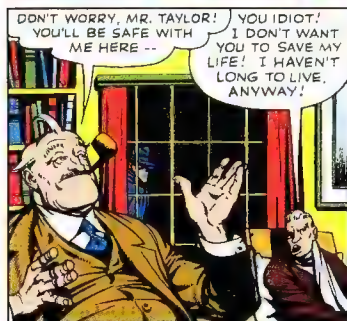
SAUL TAYLOR

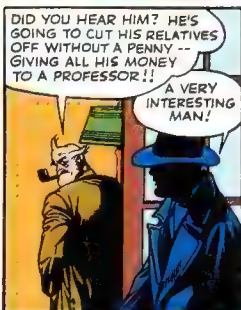
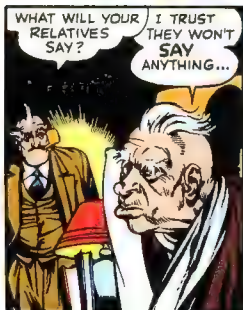
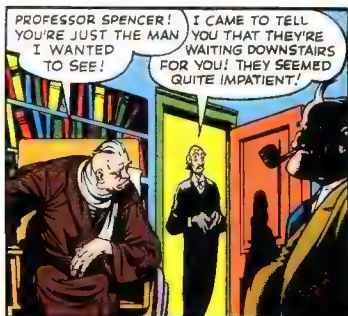
March 21 1943

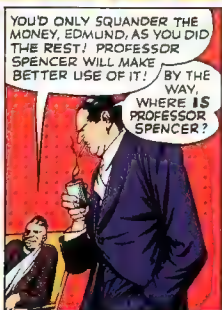
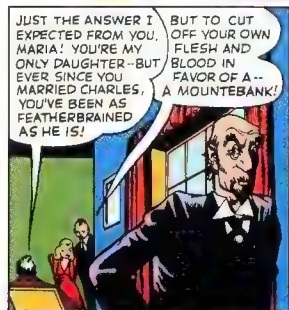
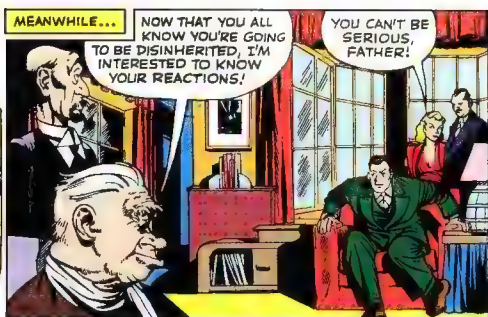
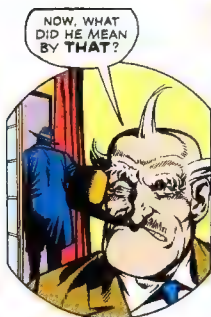
ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

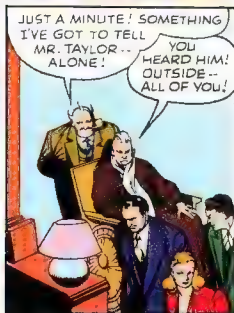
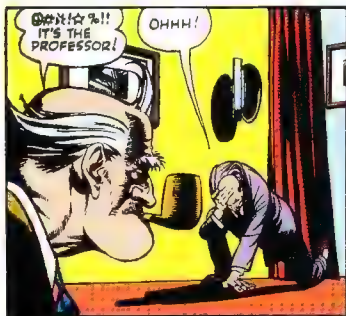


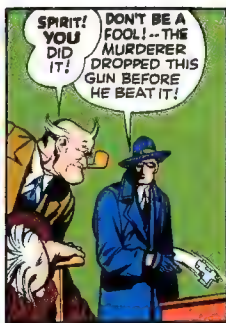


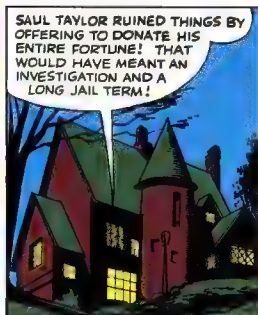












COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

ANDY HORGAN

March 28 1943

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

THE Spirit



by
Will Eisner

ABOVE RESTRICTING CONVENTIONS, BEYOND THE CONFUSION OF RED TAPE, RULES *THE SPIRIT* AS HE SMASHES CRIME BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW!

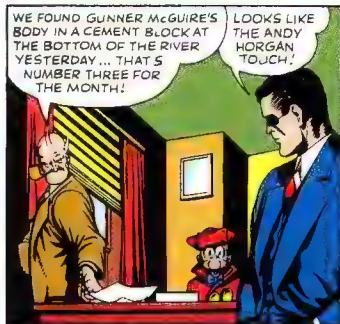
WE FOUND GUNNER MCGUIRE'S BODY IN A CEMENT BLOCK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER YESTERDAY... THAT'S NUMBER THREE FOR THE MONTH!

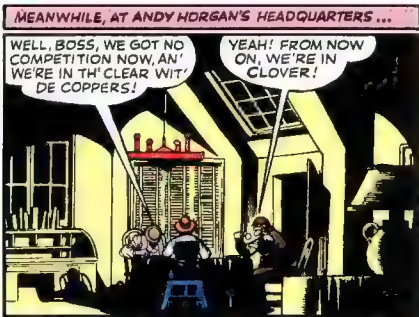
LOOKS LIKE THE ANDY HORGAN TOUCH!

YOUR TELLING ME! BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PIN ANYTHING ON THAT MOBSTER YET AND I'M AFRAID WE NEVER WILL!

AH D SHO LAK TO HAVE A CRACK AT DAT MAN!

HEY, EBONY! YOU MUST BE EATING LOTS OF VITAMINS!

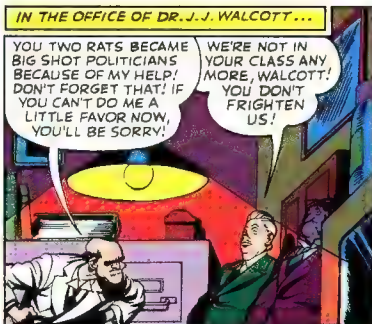






MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, AH GUESS YO' MEANT MIST' HORGAN IS GWINE TO DIE IN DE ELECTRIC CHAIR!

YOU CATCH ON FASTER THAN HE DOES, EBONY! ...BUT WE'LL HAVE TO GET SOMETHING ON HIM FIRST!



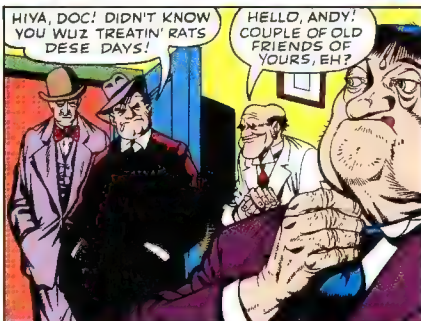
IN THE OFFICE OF DR. J. J. WALCOTT...

YOU TWO RATS BECAME BIG SHOT POLITICIANS BECAUSE OF MY HELP! DON'T FORGET THAT! IF YOU CAN'T DO ME A LITTLE FAVOR NOW, YOU'LL BE SORRY!

WE'RE NOT IN YOUR CLASS ANY MORE, WALCOTT! YOU DON'T FRIGHTEN US!

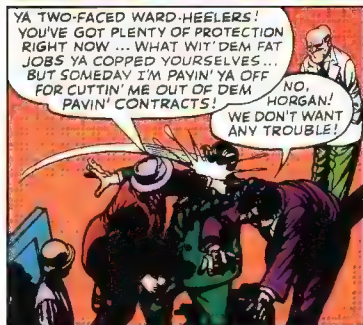


I DON'T, EH? WELL, YOU'LL LEARN YOU CAN'T DOUBLE-CROSS ME! ... SHHH-H ... SOMEBODY'S COMING IN!



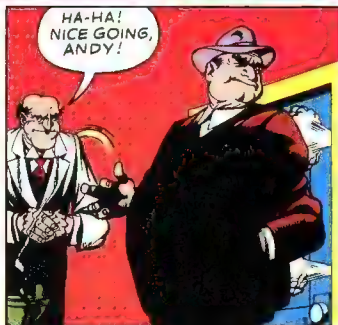
HIYA, DOC! DIDN'T KNOW YOU WUZ TREATIN' RATS DESE DAYS!

HELLO, ANDY! COUPLE OF OLD FRIENDS OF YOURS, EH?

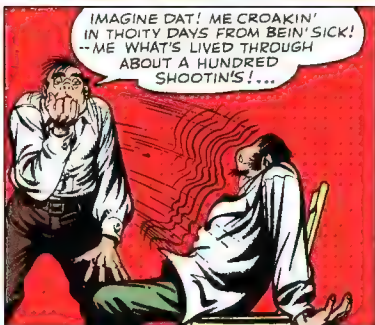
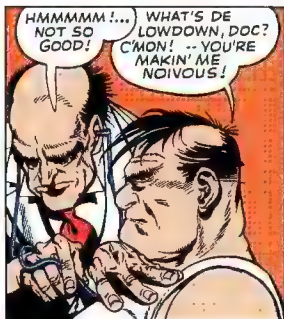
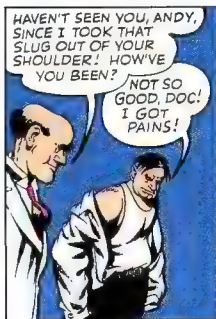


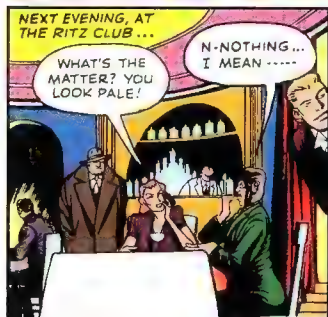
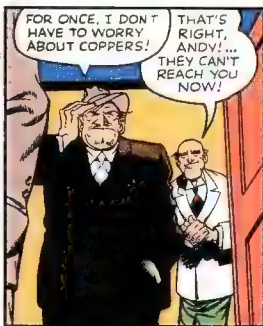
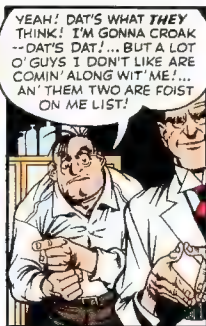
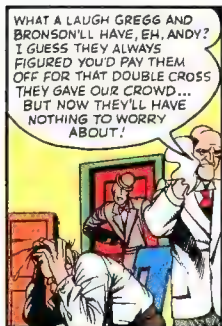
YA TWO-FACED WARD-HEELERS! YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF PROTECTION RIGHT NOW ... WHAT WIT' DEM FAT JOBS YA COPPED YOURSELVES ... BUT SOMEDAY I'M PAYIN' YA OFF FOR CUTTIN' ME OUT OF DEM PAYIN' CONTRACTS!

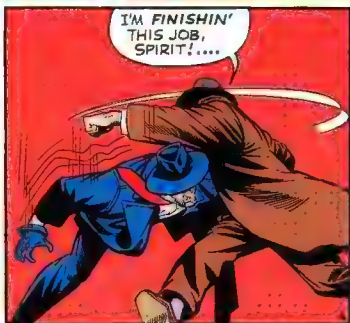
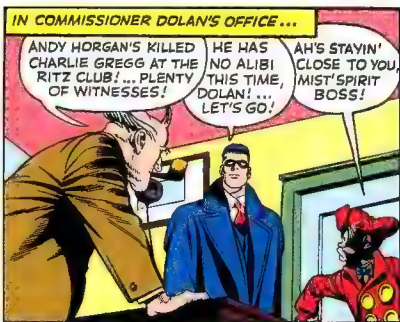
NO, HORGAN! WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE!

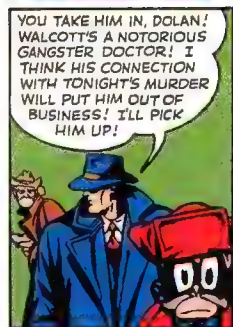
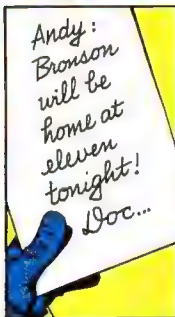
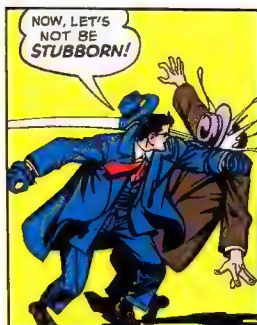


HA-HA! NICE GOING, ANDY!









JUSTICE MOVES
SWIFTLY... AND
SOON...

HAW-HAW! TELL YOU
WHAT, DOLAN ... I'LL
GIVE YOU FIVE TO ONE
I DON'T GO TO THE
CHAIR TONIGHT! MY
THIRTY DAYS IS UP
TODAY!

WHAT
THIRTY
DAYS?

ALL RIGHT, HORGAN... I'M THE
PRISON DOCTOR! THIS
IS THE FINAL CHECK-UP
BEFORE YOU GO TO
THE CHAIR!

WELL... HOW ABOUT
DAT BET,
DOLAN?



YOU'RE AS SOUND
AS A DOLLAR! ...
HEALTHIEST CONDEMNED
MAN I'VE EVER
EXAMINED!

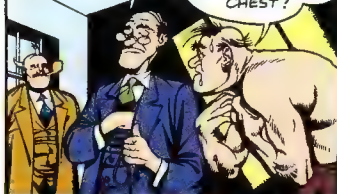
WHAT?? YOU'RE
NUTS! ... DOC
WALCOTT TOLD ME
I HAD ONLY THIRTY
DAYS TO LIVE... AND
...AND WHAT ABOUT
DEM PAINS IN ME
CHEST?

PROBABLY INDIGESTION
FROM EATING AND
DRINKING TOO MUCH!
IF YOU WEREN'T A
KILLER, YOU COULD
HAVE LIVED TO BE
A HUNDRED!

SUDDENLY...!

HUH?... WHA---
AGGHHHHH---

HE'S
DYING!



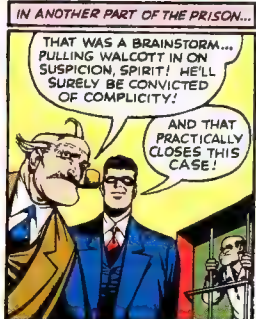
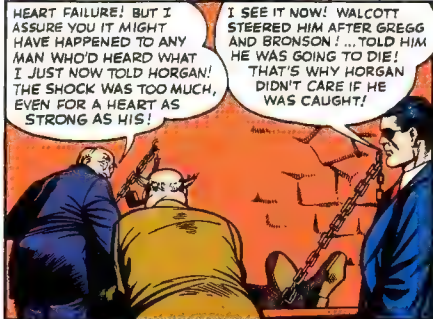
HEART FAILURE! BUT I
ASSURE YOU IT MIGHT
HAVE HAPPENED TO ANY
MAN WHO'D HEARD WHAT
I JUST NOW TOLD HORGAN!
THE SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH,
EVEN FOR A HEART AS
STRONG AS HIS!

I SEE IT NOW! WALCOTT
STEERED HIM AFTER GREGG
AND BRONSON! ...TOLD HIM
HE WAS GOING TO DIE!
THAT'S WHY HORGAN
DIDN'T CARE IF HE
WAS CAUGHT!

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE PRISON...

THAT WAS A BRAINSTORM...
PULLING WALCOTT IN ON
SUSPICION, SPIRIT! HE'LL
SURELY BE CONVICTED
OF COMPLICITY!

AND THAT
PRACTICALLY
CLOSES THIS
CASE!



COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

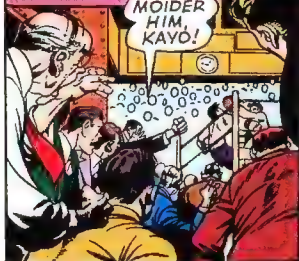
EVIL EYE MANDERS

April 4 1943

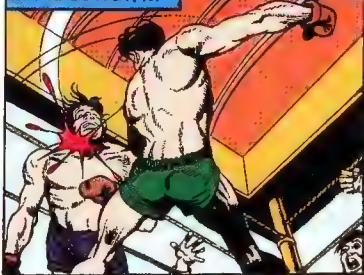
ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE



THE MOB SCREAMS FOR BLOOD AS KAYO HARRIGAN HAMMERS HIS WILTED OPPONENT...



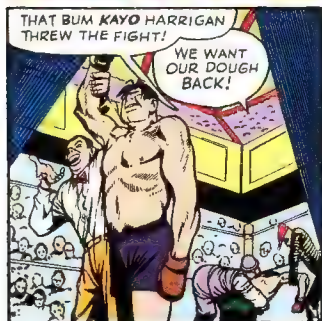
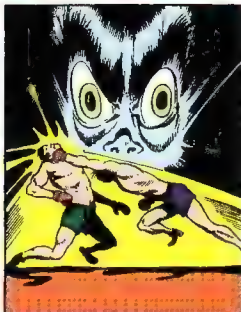
KAYO MEASURES SAILOR BROWN'S JAW FOR THE KNOCKOUT!...



SUDDENLY... KAYO SEES A PAIR OF EYES LOOMING LARGE IN THE DARKNESS OUTSIDE THE RING...

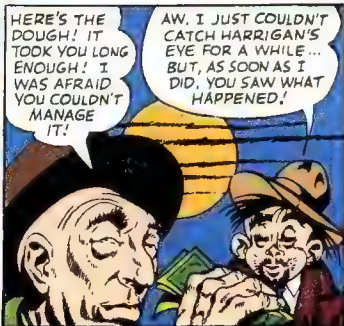
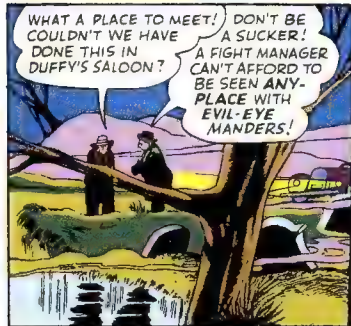
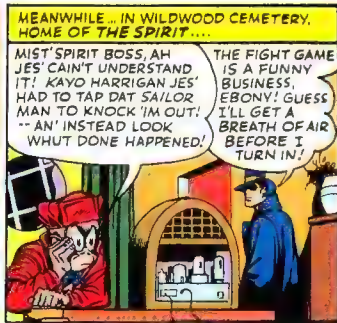


BUT KAYO CANNOT AVOID THE STRANGE STARE!



AND NOW THE COBRA EYES OF EVIL-EYE MANDERS FADE INTO THE DARKNESS!...





SO THAT'S WHY HARRIGAN WAS KNOCKED OUT! AND SOME PEOPLE SAY IT'S THE BUNK ABOUT EVIL-EYE'S POWER!



COULD YOU GENTLEMEN SPARE A MINUTE?



THE SPIRIT!
WH--WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US?

I WAS JUST WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO COME TO THE OFFICE OF THE BOXING COMMISSIONER WILLINGLY--OR WOULD YOU PREFER TO BE DRAGGED THERE?

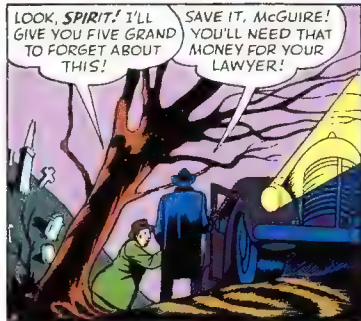


I'LL TAKE THE GUN!
IT'S THE VERY THING I NEED!



LOOK, **SPIRIT!** I'LL GIVE YOU FIVE GRAND TO FORGET ABOUT THIS!

SAVE IT, MCGUIRE! YOU'LL NEED THAT MONEY FOR YOUR LAWYER!



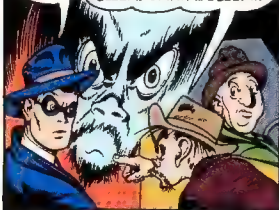
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE CHARGE AGAINST YOU WILL BE, **EVIL-EYE**, BUT I'LL BET DOLAN CAN FIND SOMETHING IN THE BOOKS!



SUDDENLY, MANDERS' EYES DRAW THE SPIRIT'S LIKE A PAIR OF MAGNETS!...

DOLAN'S NEVER...
FAILED...
YET...

YOU NEED REST, SPIRIT!
LOTS OF REST! YOU'D
LOVE TO GO TO SLEEP
NOW, WOULDN'T YOU?
SLEEP.. SPIRIT.. SLEEP...



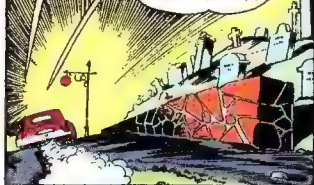
EVIL-EYE .. YOU
DID IT!!

HA-HA! SURE! NOW
YOU CAN GIVE ME THE
FIVE GRAND YOU WERE
GONNA GIVE HIM!



SURE! BUT
WHAT'LL WE
DO WITH
HIM?

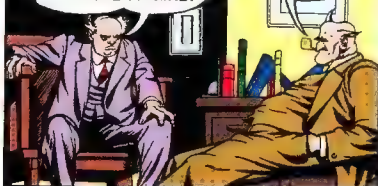
TAKE HIM UP TO MY
PLACE! I KNOW A
LOT OF GUYS WHO'LL
PAY ME PLENTY WHEN
I SHOW 'EM WHAT I'VE
DONE TO THE SPIRIT!
AND THERE'LL BE PLENTY
OF VOLUNTEERS TO
BUMP HIM OFF!



IN THE MEANTIME ...

I TELL YA, DOLAN, SOMETHING'S
GOTTA BE DONE ABOUT THIS
EVIL-EYE MANDERS! I'VE HEARD
OF HIM PULLIN' HIS STUNT ON
OTHER FIGHTERS, BUT I NEVER
THOUGHT HE COULD WORK
IT ON ONE OF MINE!

BUT THERE'S
NO REAL
EVIDENCE!
WHAT
WOULD I
CHARGE
HIM WITH?



WHAT DO I CARE
WHAT YOU CHARGE
HIM WITH? ... SO
LONG AS YA PUT
HIM IN JAIL
WHERE HE
BELONGS!

OKAY!...
LET'S GO!
I'LL TALK
TO HIM!



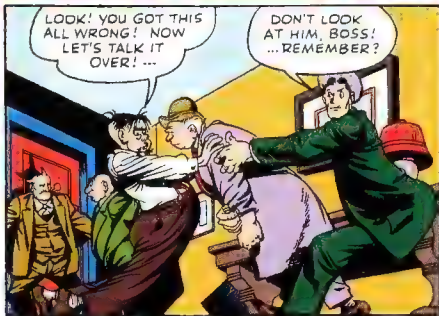
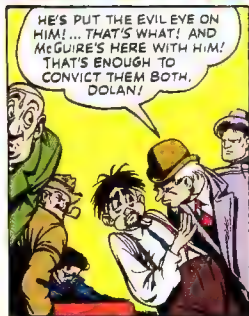
IN EVIL-EYE MANDERS'
APARTMENT...

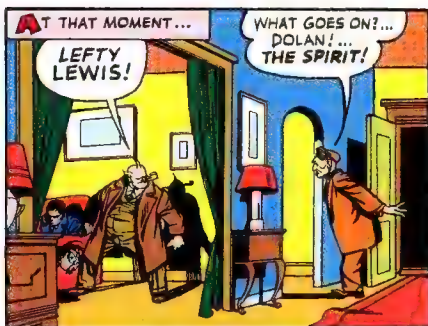
HULLO, LEFTY! I GOT THE
SPIRIT! WHAT'S IT WORTH
IF I TURN HIM OVER TO YOU,
SLEEPING LIKE A BABY? ...
SURE ... C'MON UP!

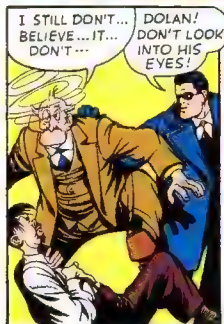


THE SPIRIT'S BEEN AFTER
LEFTY FOR THAT INSURANCE
COMPANY JOB! LEFTY'LL GIVE
ME TEN G'S FOR THIS ... EASY...
AND DROP THE SPIRIT AT THE
BOTTOM OF THE RIVER TO
BOOT!









**COMIC
BOOK
SECTION**

THE DOLLARS OF 1904

April 11 1943

**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**



The SPIRIT

By
Will
Eisner





YOU'RE OF THE SECRET SERVICE? THE GOVERNMENT SAID THAT IT WOULD CALL ON ME IN CASE OF NEED!

AND THE NEED IS GREAT, MR. SPIRIT! I'VE COME TO TELL YOU THAT...

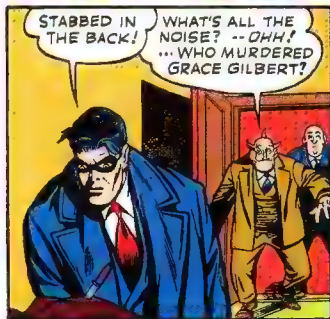


OH!!!

WHAT'S HAPPENED?



DON'T... MIND... ME!... ONLY FIND... BAM BRO... EIGHTEEN... FOUR....



STABBED IN THE BACK!

WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE? -- OHH! ... WHO MURDERED GRACE GILBERT?



I DON'T KNOW! SOMEBODY USED A KNIFE!

BUT YOU WERE ALONE HERE!

AND NOBODY COULD HAVE REACHED THIS WINDOW EXCEPT THE SPIRIT HIMSELF!



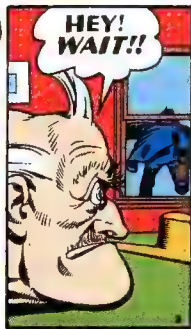
YOU DON'T MEAN YOU'LL ARREST ME!

I'VE HELPED YOU OUT OF TIGHT PLACES BEFORE! BUT GRACE GILBERT WAS A GOVERNMENT OPERATIVE! MY DUTY IS CLEAR!



I'LL HAVE TO HOLD YOU AND CHARGE YOU WITH ... UOHH!

SORRY, DOLAN, BUT SHE GAVE ME A SLIGHT CLUE -- AND I'M FOLLOWING IT!



HEY! WAIT!!



YOU WON'T
GET AWAY
WITH THIS,
SPIRIT!

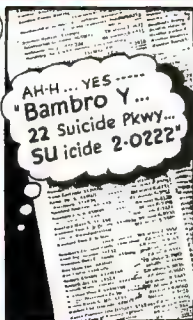
SHE SAID A NAME
-- **BAMBRO!**
AND TWO NUMBERS
-- **EIGHTEEN**
AND **FOUR!**



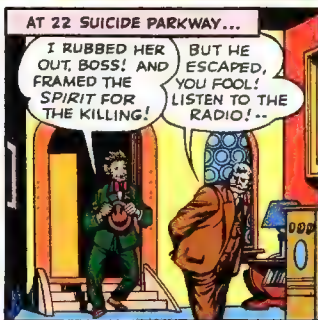
I'LL CLEAR MYSELF,
AVENGE HER -- AND
DO WHATEVER THE
GOVERNMENT
WANTED!



BAMBRO'S AN
UNCOMMON NAME!
PERHAPS THE
PHONE BOOK ---



AH-H... YES ----
"Bambro Y...
22 Suicide Pkwy...
SUicide 2-0222"



AT 22 SUICIDE PARKWAY...

I RUBBED HER
OUT, BOSS! AND
FRAMED THE
SPIRIT FOR
THE KILLING!

BUT HE
ESCAPED,
YOU FOOL!
LISTEN TO THE
RADIO! --

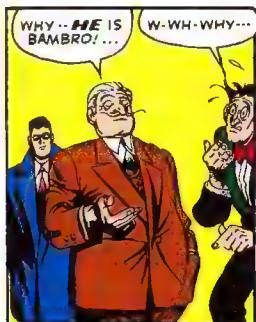


... AND THE CITY IS
OFFERING A REWARD OF
TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS
FOR THE CAPTURE
OF THE SPIRIT!

IF ONLY WE
COULD GET OUR
HANDS ON
HIM!



ALL RIGHT --
WHICH OF YOU
TWO IS BAMBRO?



WHY -- HE IS
BAMBRO! ...

W-WH-WHY...



WHAT DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT THE MURDER
OF GRACE GILBERT?

I-I-I...



GOT HIM!
QUICK! BRING
SOME ROPE!



WHY DID YOU
SAY I WAS
YOU? -- I
THOUGHT...

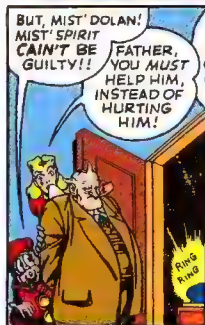
NO, YOU DIDN'T
THINK! YOU ONLY
GIBBERED! -- I
DID THE THINKING!



HE'S STILL OUT COLD! I'LL
TRY MY "FLYING KNIFE"
--JUST FOR PRACTICE!



NO! FOOL! DIDN'T
YOU HEAR THE RADIO?
--THE REWARD IS FOR
HIS CAPTURE, NOT
HIS DEATH! GUARD
HIM -- I'M GOING
CALLING!



BUT, MIST' DOLAN!
MIST' SPIRIT
CAIN'T BE
GUILTY!!

FATHER,
YOU MUST
HELP HIM,
INSTEAD OF
HURTING
HIM!



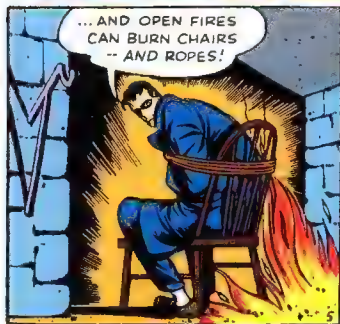
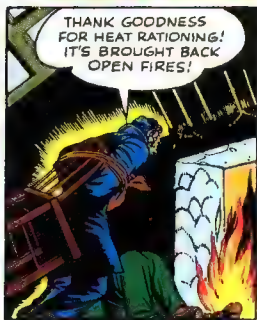
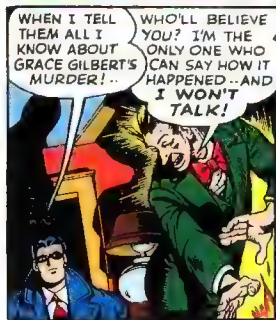
NO USE, EBONY!
NO USE, ELLEN!
THIS IS THE KILLING
OF A SECRET SERVICE
OPERATIVE! I CAN'T
HINDER JUSTICE!

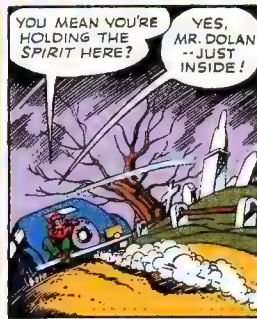
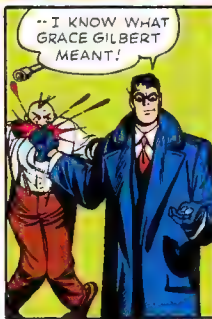
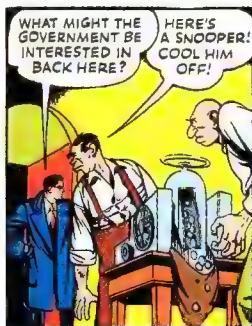
A GUY HERE
SAYS HE
KNOWS ABOUT
THE SPIRIT!
I'LL SEND
HIM UP,
COMMISSIONER!

...YES,
SERGEANT?

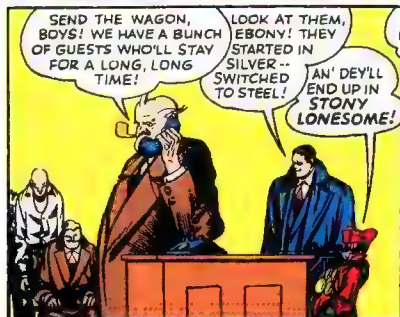
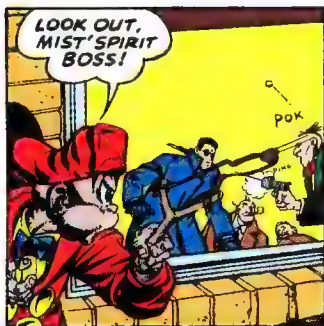


I'VE JUST NOW
CAPTURED THAT
MURDERING
SPIRIT! COME
ALONG AND
GET HIM!





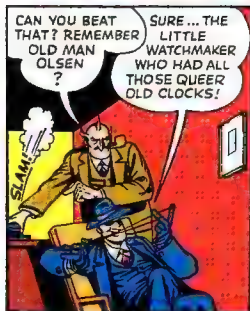
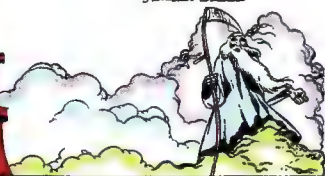






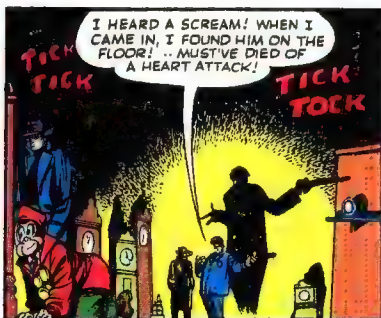
My grandfather clock was
too large for the shelf,
So it stood ninety years
on the floor...
Ninety years without
slumbering...
Tick, tock ... tick, tock...
his life seconds numbering,
But it stopped short--never
to go again--
When the old man died!

-- *Familias' Ballad*





HE LIVED IN
THE BACK OF
THE STORE...



I HEARD A SCREAM! WHEN I
CAME IN, I FOUND HIM ON THE
FLOOR! .. MUST'VE DIED OF
A HEART ATTACK!



HE SEEMS TO HAVE
DIED A NATURAL
ENOUGH DEATH!

YEAH... AND YET
I HAD THE FEELING
THAT SOMEBODY ELSE
WAS IN HERE! ..KIND
OF A SPOOKY
FEELING, TOO!

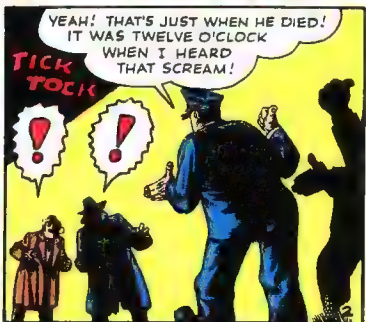


SPIRIT! LOOK!
IT'S STOPPED
RUNNING!

SO WHAT?
LOTS OF CLOCKS
STOP RUNNING!



NOT *THIS* ONE! OLSEN TOOK CARE
OF IT... AND HE ONCE TOLD ME THAT
THERE WAS A LEGEND ABOUT THIS
CLOCK... A LEGEND THAT WHEN ITS
MASTER DIED, THE CLOCK
WOULD STOP!



YEAH! THAT'S JUST WHEN HE DIED!
IT WAS TWELVE O'CLOCK
WHEN I HEARD
THAT SCREAM!



LET'S SEE WHO THAT IS!



STOPS WHEN ITS MASTER DIES, EH?



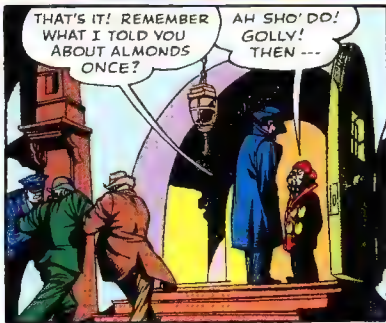
SNIFF! SNIFF!

MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, YO'SHO' LOOKS LAK YO'S READY TO FLUSH A COVEY O' WILD QUAIL!



SMELL SOMETHING?

SNIFF! SNIFF! IT SMELL LAK... LAK... ALMONDS...



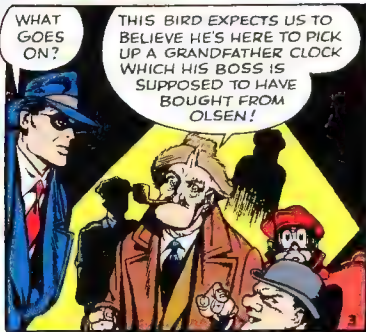
THAT'S IT! REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT ALMONDS ONCE?

AH SHO' DO! GOLLY! THEN ---



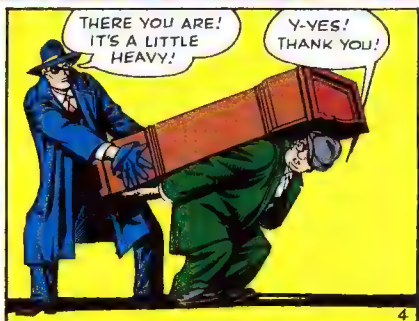
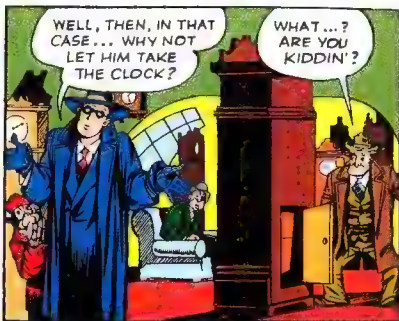
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME! YOU'VE NO RIGHT ---

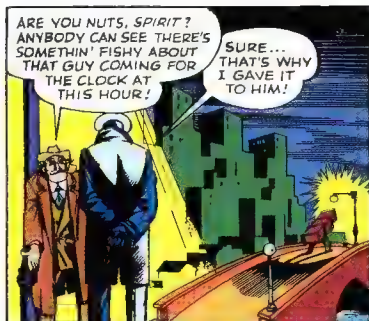
OH, NO? -- YOU'RE GOING TO ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS ---



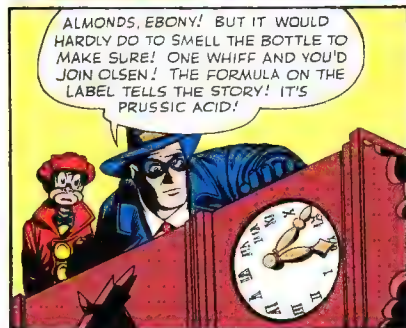
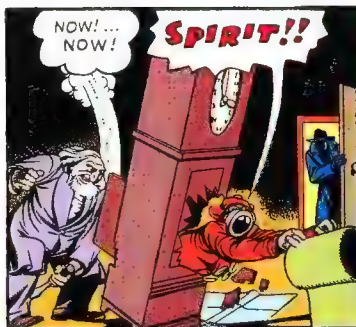
WHAT GOES ON?

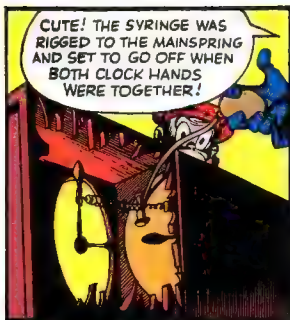
THIS BIRD EXPECTS US TO BELIEVE HE'S HERE TO PICK UP A GRANDFATHER CLOCK WHICH HIS BOSS IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BOUGHT FROM OLSEN!



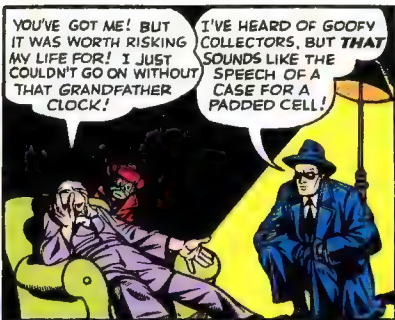






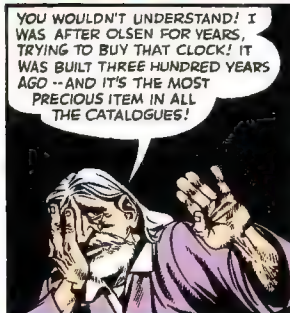


CUTE! THE SYRINGE WAS RIGGED TO THE MAINSPRING AND SET TO GO OFF WHEN BOTH CLOCK HANDS WERE TOGETHER!

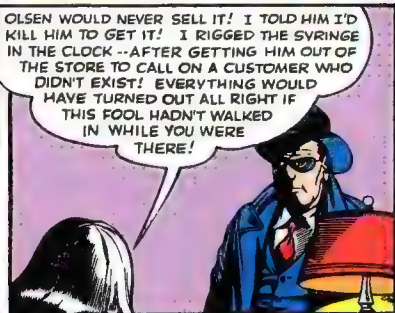


YOU'VE GOT ME! BUT IT WAS WORTH RISKING MY LIFE FOR! I JUST COULDN'T GO ON WITHOUT THAT GRANDFATHER CLOCK!

I'VE HEARD OF GOOFY COLLECTORS, BUT **THAT** SOUNDS LIKE THE SPEECH OF A CASE FOR A PADDED CELL!



YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND! I WAS AFTER OLSEN FOR YEARS, TRYING TO BUY THAT CLOCK! IT WAS BUILT THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO --AND IT'S THE MOST PRECIOUS ITEM IN ALL THE CATALOGUES!



OLSEN WOULD NEVER SELL IT! I TOLD HIM I'D KILL HIM TO GET IT! I RIGGED THE SYRINGE IN THE CLOCK --AFTER GETTING HIM OUT OF THE STORE TO CALL ON A CUSTOMER WHO DIDN'T EXIST! EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE TURNED OUT ALL RIGHT IF THIS FOOL HADN'T WALKED IN WHILE YOU WERE THERE!



A LITTLE LATER...

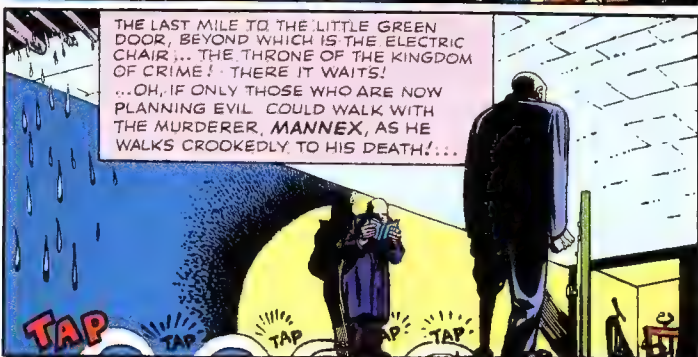
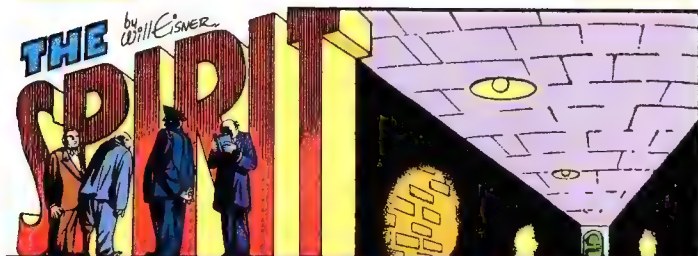
I PROMISED YOU A MURDERER, DOLAN, --AND HERE HE IS!

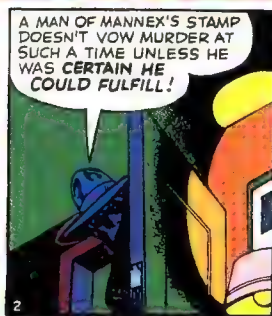
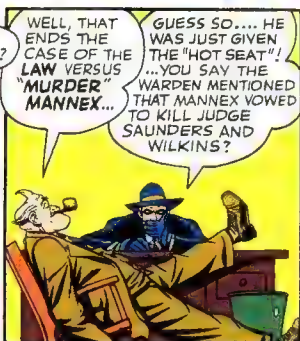
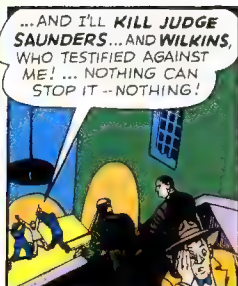
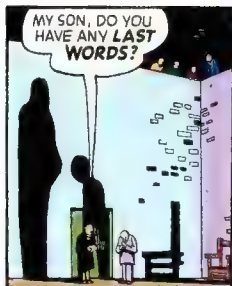
WELL, I'LL BE--!

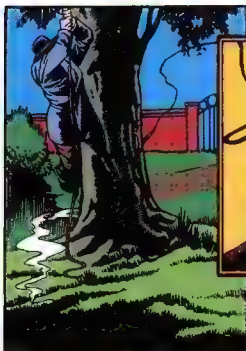
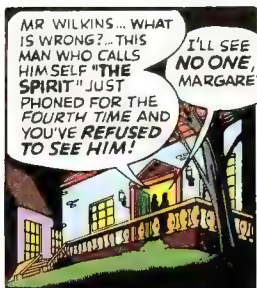


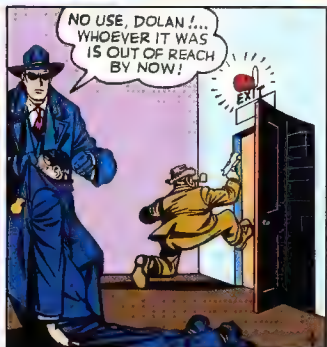
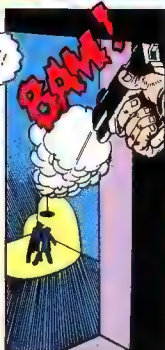
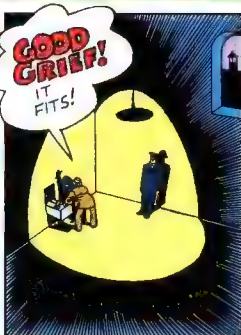
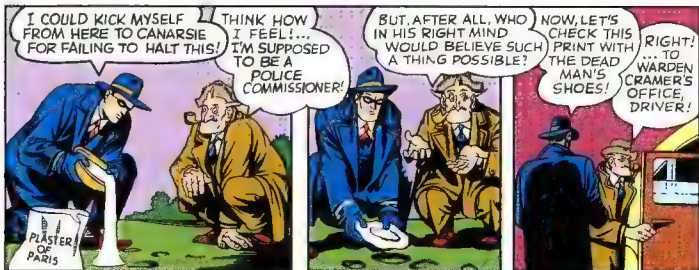
IF YOU'LL LOOK AT OLSEN NOW, DOLAN, YOU'LL SEE THAT HE'S BEGINNING TO LOOK MORE LIKE A VICTIM OF VIOLENCE! THOUGH A DOCTOR COULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT RIGHT OFF THE BAT! THAT IS, IF YOU HADN'T BEEN SO SOLD ON THE THEORY THAT THE CLOCK WOULD STOP RUNNING WHEN THE MASTER DIED!

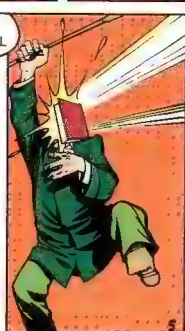
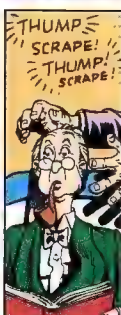
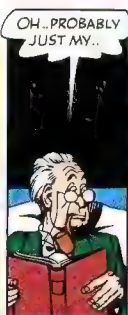
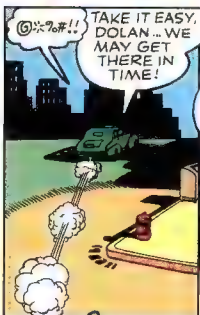
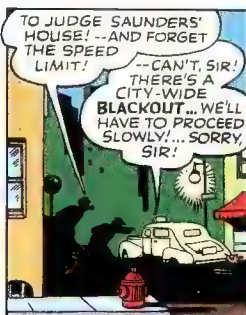
WELL... WELL... IT DID, DIDN'T IT?



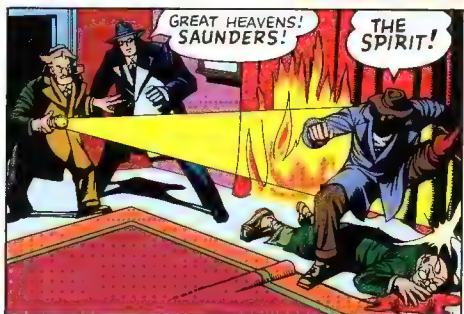






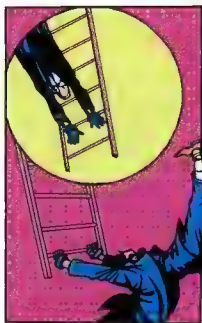


**AT THAT MOMENT...
IN CENTRAL CITY'S
POWER STATION ...**



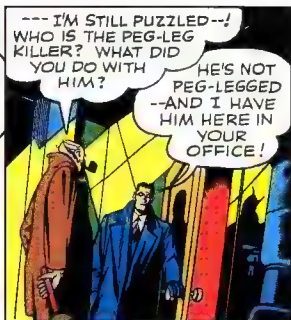


NO... OH, WHAT A SAP I'VE BEEN! HE'S AS SOUND AS YOU AND I...



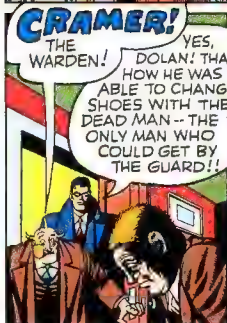


SAUNDERS
IS OKAY, EXCEPT
FOR A MINOR
CONCUSSION...
NOW, TELL
ME...



--- I'M STILL PUZZLED!--
WHO IS THE PEG-LEG
KILLER? WHAT DID
YOU DO WITH
HIM?

HE'S NOT
PEG-LEGGED
--AND I HAVE
HIM HERE IN
YOUR
OFFICE!



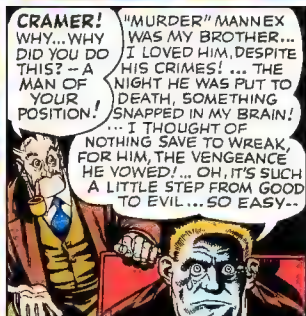
CRAMER!

THE
WARDEN!

YES,
DOLAN! THAT'S
HOW HE WAS
ABLE TO CHANGE
SHOES WITH THE
DEAD MAN--THE
ONLY MAN WHO
COULD GET BY
THE GUARD!!

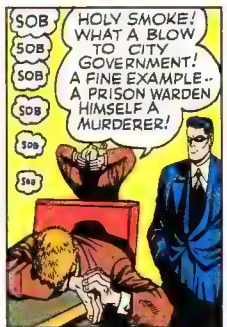


AS FOR THE
PEG-LEG...
ANYONE CAN
DO THAT...
SEE?



CRAMER!
WHY... WHY
DID YOU DO
THIS? -- A
MAN OF
YOUR
POSITION!

"MURDER" MANNEX
WAS MY BROTHER...
I LOVED HIM, DESPITE
HIS CRIMES! ... THE
NIGHT HE WAS PUT TO
DEATH, SOMETHING
SNAPPED IN MY BRAIN!
... I THOUGHT OF
NOTHING SAVE TO WREAK,
FOR HIM, THE VENGEANCE
HE VOWED! ... OH, IT'S SUCH
A LITTLE STEP FROM GOOD
TO EVIL... SO EASY--



SOB

SOB

SOB

SOB

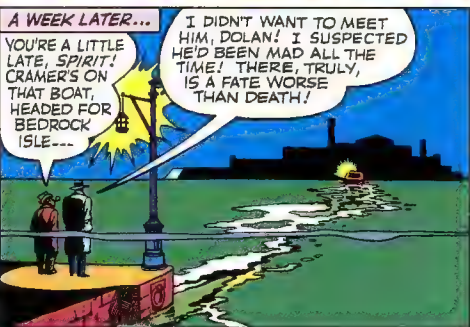
SOB

SOB

SOB

SOB

HOLY SMOKE!
WHAT A BLOW
TO CITY
GOVERNMENT!
A FINE EXAMPLE--
A PRISON WARDEN
HIMSELF A
MURDERER!



A WEEK LATER...

YOU'RE A LITTLE
LATE, SPIRIT!
CRAMER'S ON
THAT BOAT,
HEADED FOR
BEDROCK
ISLE---

I DIDN'T WANT TO MEET
HIM, DOLAN! I SUSPECTED
HE'D BEEN MAD ALL THE
TIME! THERE, TRULY,
IS A FATE WORSE
THAN DEATH!



BEHOLD JASON BRODWAY,
A MAN ABOUT TO DIE...



OH,
THANK YOU,
MR. BRODWAY!

BUY
YOURSELF
A BOX OF
CIGARS!
HA-HA!



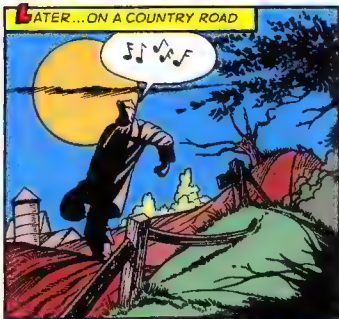
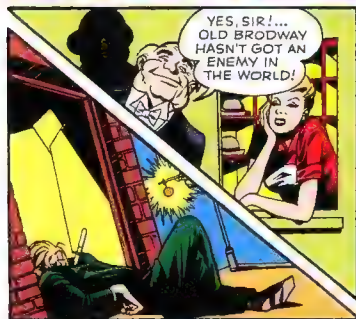
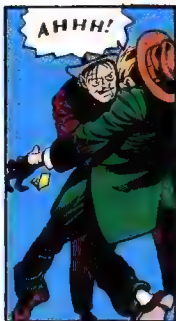
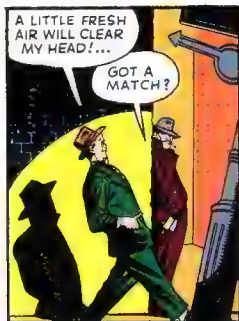
FIVE DOLLARS!
GOSH! JASON
BRODWAY IS
THE MOST
GENEROUS
MAN I'VE EVER
MET!

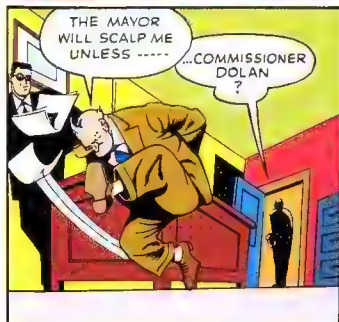
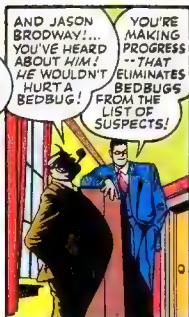
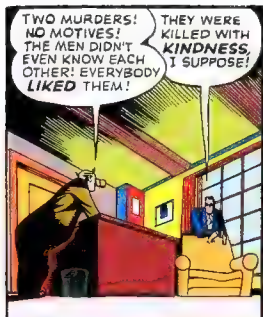
HOW COULD
ANYBODY
HATE A
GUY LIKE
THAT?

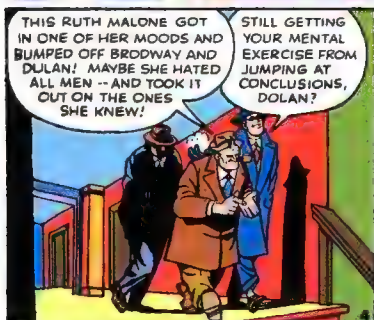
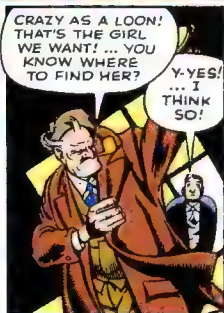
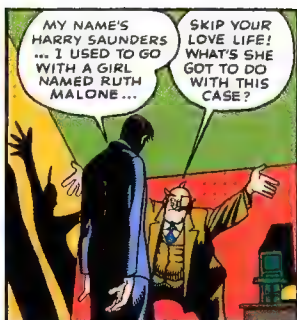


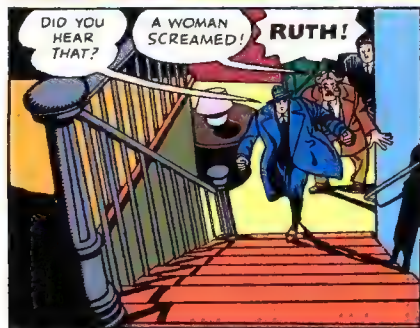
THANK YOU,
MR. BRODWAY!
SHALL I CALL
A CAB?

I'LL WALK!
THIS IS
TOO NICE
A NIGHT
TO WASTE!

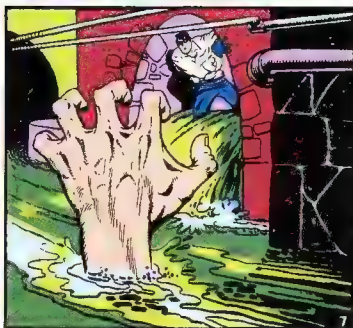
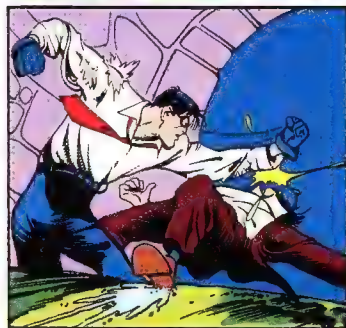
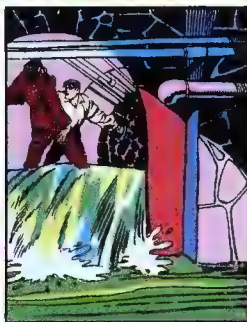
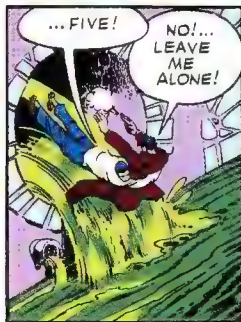
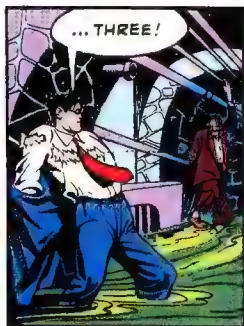


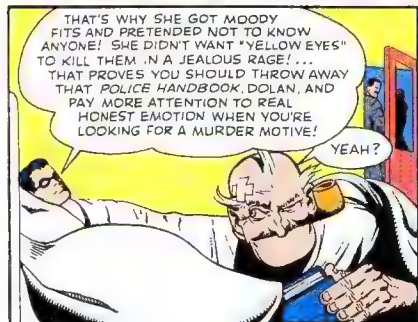
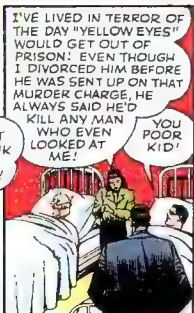
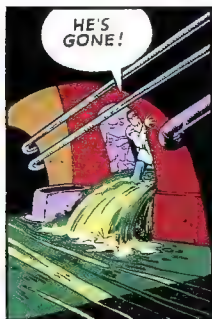












COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

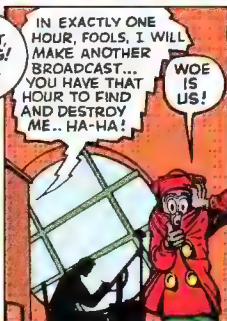
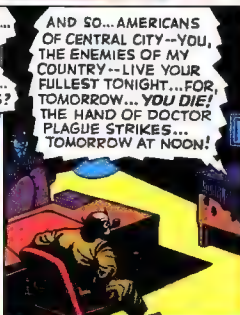
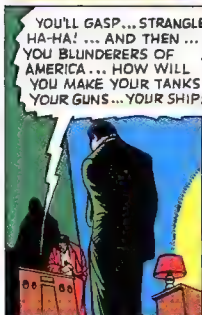
DR. PLAGUE

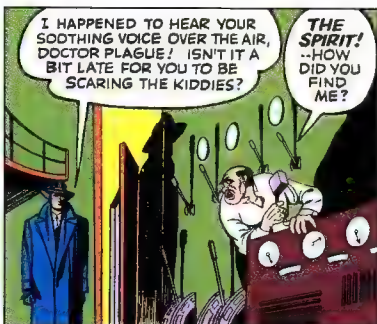
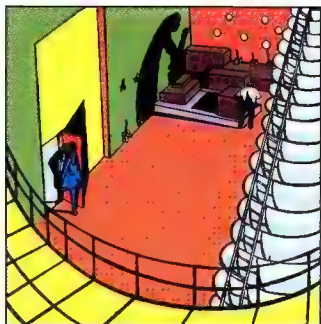
May 9 1943

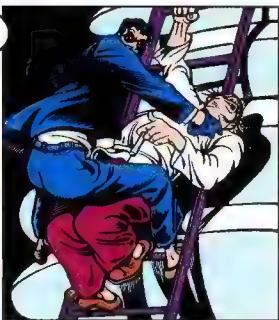
ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

THE SPARIT









LATER...

GOT... TO GET... BACK
WITH... THESE ...
SAMPLES...



BACK AT WILDWOOD...

SO **THAT'S** WHAT
DOCTOR PLAGUE AND
HIS FELLOW FIENDS
ARE PLANNING TO
UNLEASH!



AIN'T WE GONNA
GIT ANY SLEEP A-TALL,
MIST' SPIRIT BOSS? YOU
BEEN MESSIN' 'ROUND
HEAH ALL NIGHT--AND
YO'S SICK!!

HMMM...
SO THIS
IS THE
**BLACK
DEATH!**

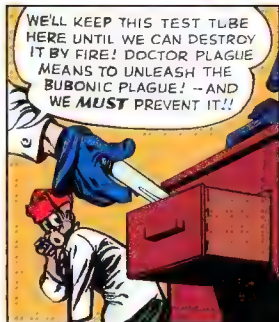


THE **BLACK DEATH** ...OR
BUBONIC PLAGUE!! -- GERMS
ENOUGH HERE TO KILL
EVERYBODY IN
CENTRAL CITY!

GOLLY!



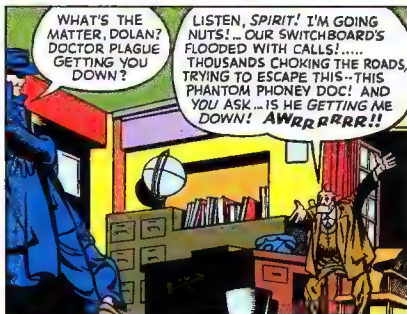
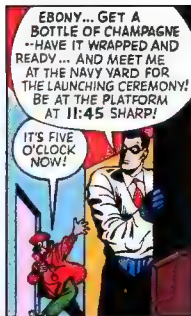
WE'LL KEEP THIS TEST TUBE
HERE UNTIL WE CAN DESTROY
IT BY FIRE! DOCTOR PLAGUE
MEANS TO UNLEASH THE
BUBONIC PLAGUE! --AND
WE **MUST** PREVENT IT!!



HOW'S WE GONNA
DO THAT? HE MUST
HAVE GALLONS O'
THAT STUFF! IT'LL
KILL EVERYONE!

EUROPE LOST TWENTY-
FIVE MILLION PEOPLE WHEN
THE **BLACK DEATH** RAGED
IN THE 14TH CENTURY! THE
SEEDS OF THIS DISEASE
ARE MORE TERRIBLE THAN
ANY BOMBS OUR ENEMES
COULD RAIN ON US!





AT THE NAVY YARD, WHERE GAY DECORATIONS MARK THE NEW CARRIER'S EXPECTED LAUNCHING...

ADMIRALS AND OTHER HIGH DIGNITARIES ARE PRESENT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE NEW SHIP...

S'MATTER, TOM? YOU LOOK SCARED!

LEMME ALONE! MY WIFE AN' I HEARD THAT DOCTOR PLAGUE ON THE RADIO! HE SAYS THE BLACK DEATH WILL GET US ALL AT NOON TODAY!

AH.. MY GREAT MOMENT APPROACHES!

O'ROURKE... YOU GOT THE MEN PLACED?

YES, COMMISSIONER! THIRTY OF 'EM... SURROUNDING THE SPEAKERS' PLATFORM!

HEY... MISTAH COMMISSIONER DOLAN, SUH... HAS YO' SEEN MAH BOSS, DE SPIRIT?

NO... SAY!... WHAT'S THE IDEA? WHY ARE YOU CARRYING THAT BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE?

AH DON' KNOW, SUH... BUT MAH MIST' SPIRIT BOSS TOL' ME TO BRING IT!

SOMETHING'S COOKING, SURE!

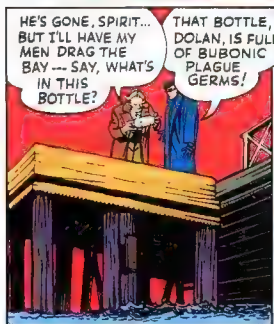
OKAY, EBONY... I'LL JUST TAG ALONG!

YOU SURE YOU HAVE EVERYTHING STRAIGHT, EBONY? YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO?

YASSUH, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, BUT AH'S SKEERED! AH AIN'T NEVAH CH.....

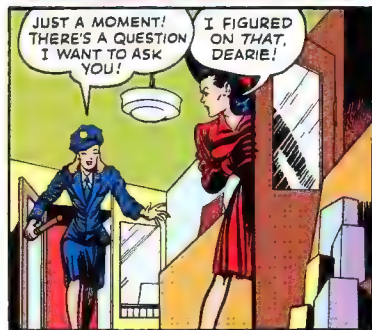
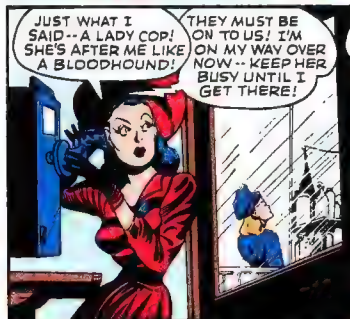
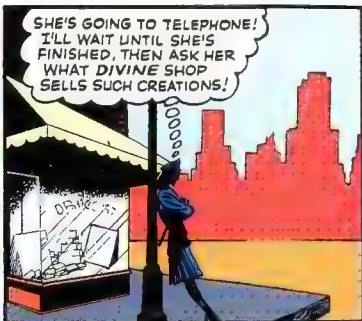
I CHRISTEN THEE OHH! ...**HELP!**

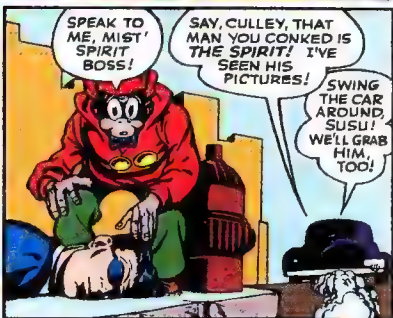


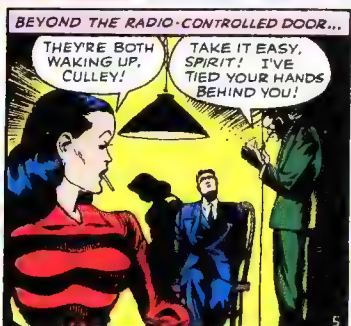
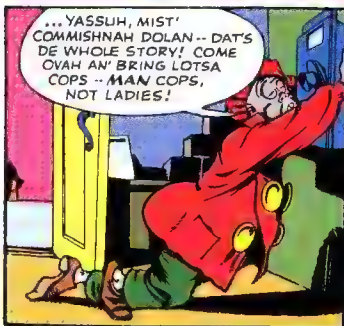
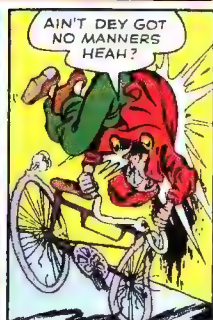
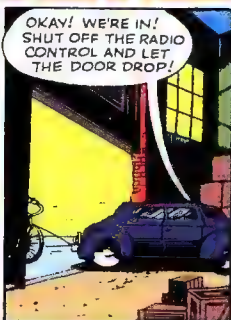
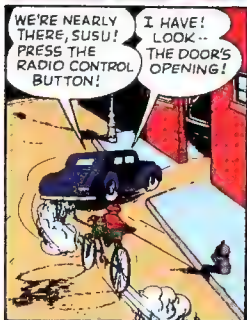






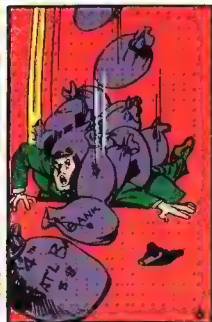
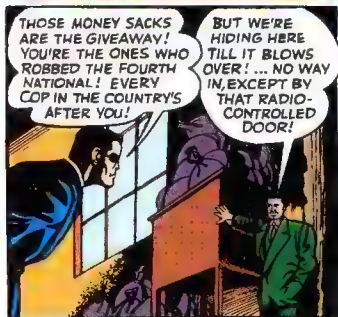


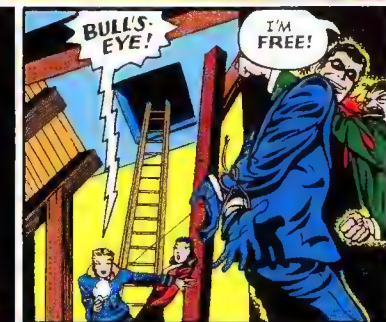
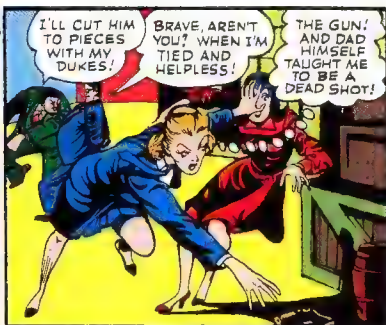


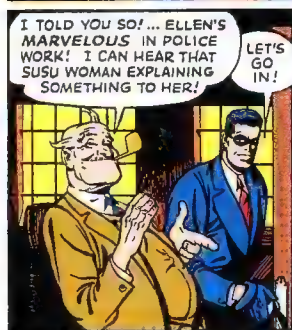
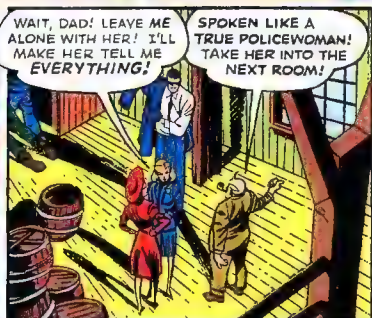
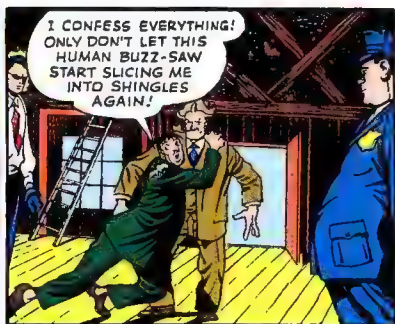




WHY... NOBODY KNOWS! I WOULDN'T DREAM OF TELLING THE OTHER GIRLS! THEY MIGHT SPOIL THINGS!









OUR SCENE SHIFTS TO
ARMY HEADQUARTERS, SOME-
WHERE OVERSEAS, WHERE A
GRIM AND UNRELENTING
MAN HUNT DRAWS TO A
CLOSE....



COLONEL
EVERS!

I HAVE THE
REPORTS YOU
ASKED FOR, SPIRIT!
THERE IS NO MAN
NAMED TONY ZACCO
SERVING WITH
MY OUTFIT!

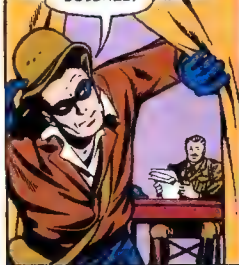


HE'S HERE SOMEWHERE!
I COULD FORGIVE THAT RAT
FOR MURDER, BUT WE'S
BEEN USING THE U.S.
ARMY FOR A HIDEOUT!
TONY ZACCO NEVER
STOPPED AT ANYTHING
TO SAVE HIS OWN
SKIN!

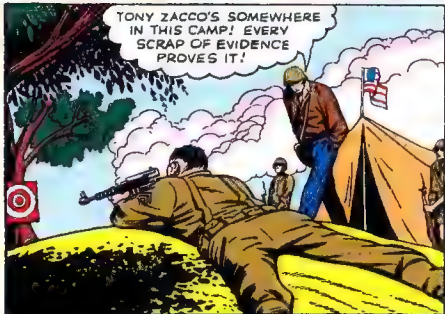
YOU'LL
HAVE A
HARD TIME
LOCATING
HIM
AMONG
THE MEN
WE HAVE
HERE!



I'LL KEEP TRYING!
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP,
COLONEL!



TONY ZACCO'S SOMEWHERE
IN THIS CAMP! EVERY
SCRAP OF EVIDENCE
PROVES IT!



HEY!
LOOK
OUT!



YOU DIMWIT! YOU
MIGHTA GOT KILLED!
COULDN'T YOU SEE THIS
IS A RIFLE RANGE?

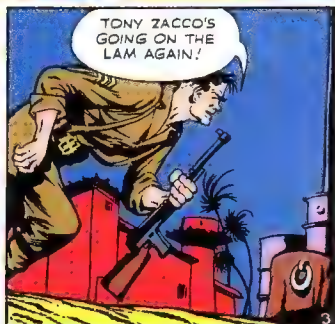


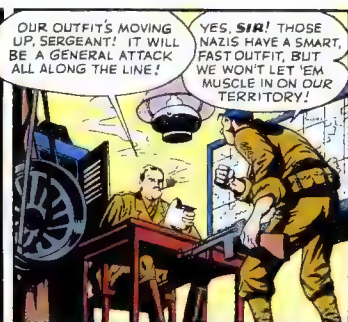
SORRY,
SOLDIER! I
WAS JUST ---

TONY
ZACCO!

THE
SPIRIT!

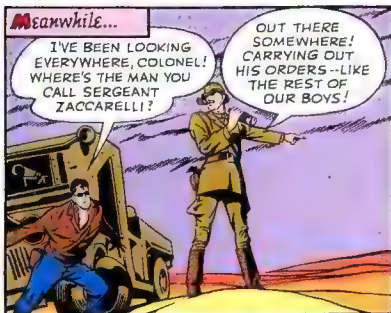








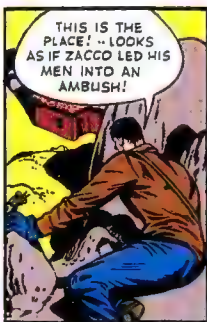
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN
BETTER'N TO TRUST A
NAZI! GET OUT THOSE
PINEAPPLES! WE'LL
BLOW 'EM OFF
THE MAP!

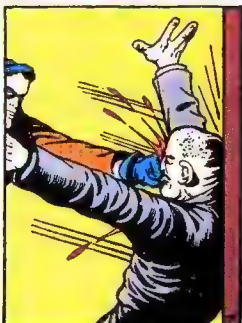
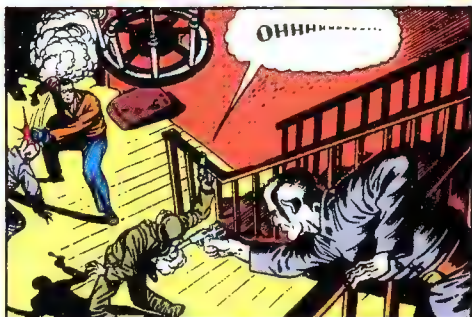


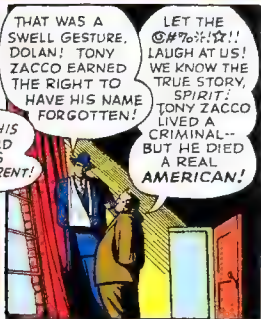
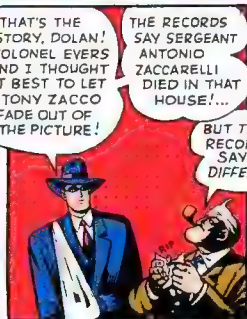
I ASSIGNED HIM TO
TAKE A NAZI STRONG
POINT NEAR THE RIVER
"W"! WHY DO YOU
WANT HIM?

HE'S TONY
ZACCO!









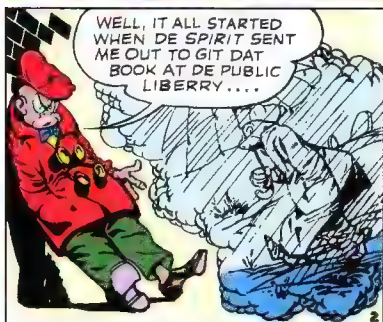
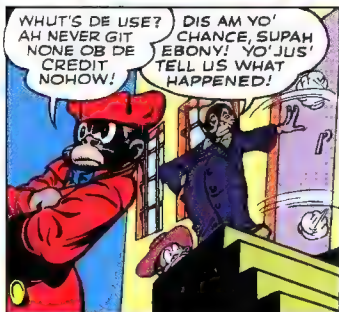
COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

THE SPIRIT AIN'T FAIR

May 30 1943

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE





"AFTER AH GITS THROUGH WIF COOKIN' AN' CLEANIN' FOR DE SPIRIT, I'SE GOT TO RUN DE ERRANDS, TOO...



"AH IS JUS' LIKE DE POSTMAN... EVEN IN DE WORSTEST WEATHER, AH ALLUS DOES MAH JOB ...

SECTION THREE, SHELF 27-A. YOUNG MAN!

THANK YO' KINDLY, MA'AM!



MAH GOODNESS, AH FO'GOT DE EXAC' TITLE OB DAT BOOK! BUT DIS LOOKS LAK IT!



MIST' SPIRIT SHO' READS DE MOST DISINTERESTIN' BOOKS!



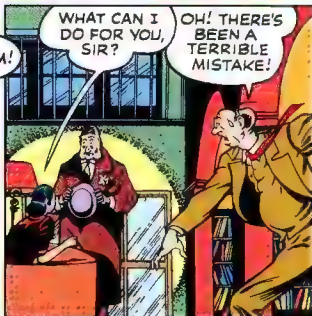
THAT BOOK MUST BE RETURNED IN TWO WEEKS. MR. WHITE!

YES'M!



WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SIR?

OH! THERE'S BEEN A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!



SOMEONE PUT THE ORIGINAL BOUND VOLUME OF "THACKERAY'S PAPERS" ON SHELF 27-A! AND IT'S MISSING!

--AND IT'S PRICELESS!



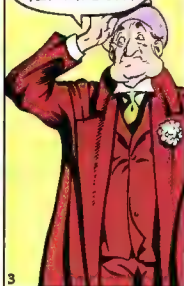
HOW MUCH EXACTLY WOULD YOU SAY THE BOOK IS WORTH?

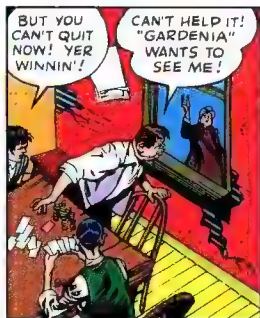
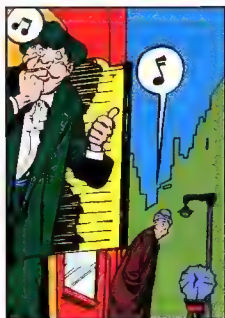
IT'S WORTH \$25,000!

OOOH!

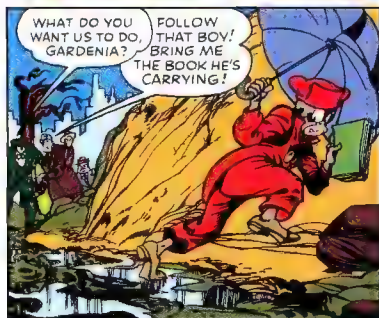


THANK YOU, VERY MUCH!

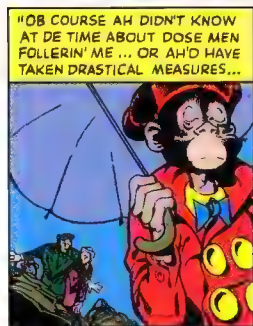
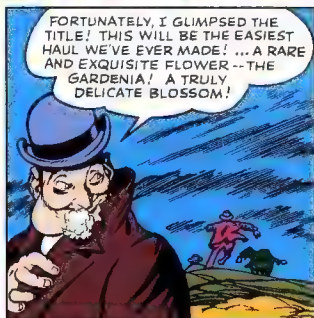




CAN'T HELP IT! "GARDENIA" WANTS TO SEE ME!

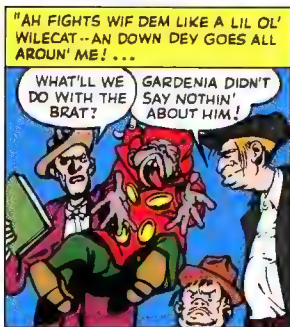


FOLLOW THAT BOY! BRING ME THE BOOK HE'S CARRYING!



YOU DON'T THINK HE WAS A GHOST?

WE'LL BE GHOSTS IF WE DON'T BRING GARDENIA THAT BOOK!



"BUT EVEN IN MAH WEAKENED CONDISHUN,
DEM CROOKS KNOWED DEY WASN'T NO MATCH
FO' ME **AND DE SPIRIT!**..."

HE'S GAINING
ON US!



GARDENIA!
SAVE US!

THE
SPIRIT'S
AFTER
US!

**THE
SPIRIT!**



GET INTO THE
CAR! -- QUICK!!
AND START
THE MOTOR!

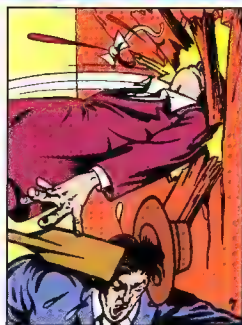
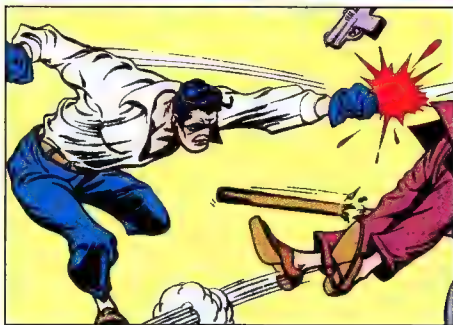


**STEP
ON
IT!**

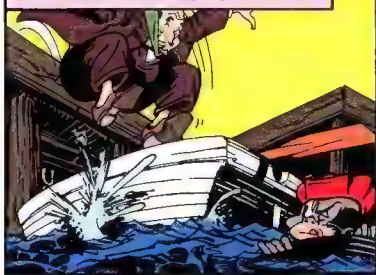


THEY'RE HEADING
FOR THE
WATERFRONT!

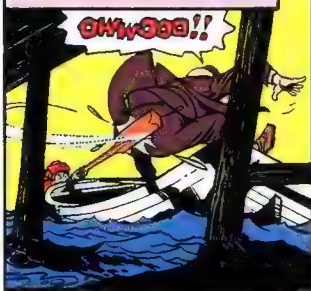




"DEN GARDENIA JUMPS FROM DE DOCK
TO GIT AWAY FROM MIST' SPIRIT! ...



"AN' AH GITS MAH CHANCE! ...



A PRETTY GOOD
CAST - IF I DO
SAY SO
MYSELF! ...



BUT ALL I LANDED
WAS ONE **POOR**
FISH!!



"ME AN' MIST' SPIRIT TOOK PROPER
CARE OB GARDENIA"

YO' WAS A BIG HELP TO ME ON
DIS CASE, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!
AH WAS ALMOST AFEEERD AH
COULDN'T HANDLE 'EM ALL
BY MAHSELF!



BUT DOES AH GIT DE CREDIT?
... AH DOES NOT! EBONY
WHITE AM DE MOS'
DISAPPRECIATED
MAN ON EARTH!



YES, YO'
IS! YO'S
JUS' FULL
OF TALK!

EBONY WHITE? COMMISSIONER
DOLAN WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU
RIGHT AWAY! THERE'S A REWARD
FOR CAPTURING THOSE CROOKS,
AN' THE SPIRIT
DECLARED
YOU IN!



AS AH WAS SAYIN'--
DEY COME AT ME
WIF GUNS BLAZIN'
AN'...

WHUT
HAPPENED
DEN,
EBONY?



COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

TERRIBLE TERRY GILL

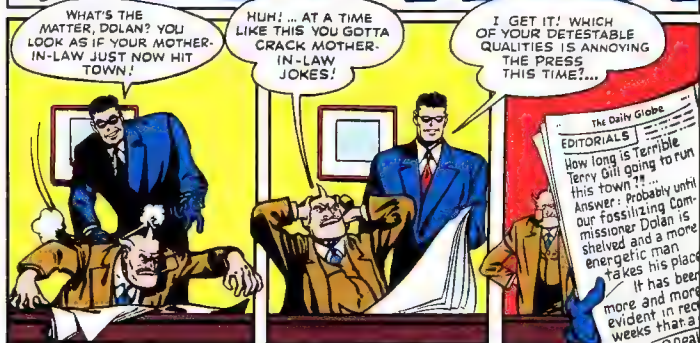
June 6 1943

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE



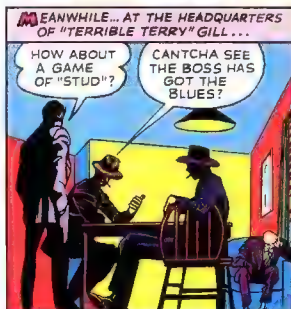
THE SPURT

by Will Eisner





NEWSPAPERS AND THEIR
SMART TALK! BAH! WHAT DO
THEY KNOW ABOUT POLICE PROBLEMS?
LET'S SEE THEM GET SOME TANGIBLE
EVIDENCE ON "TERRIBLE TERRY"!
WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO
FOR YEARS!





I SEE YOU GUYS UNDERSTAND!
> SNIFF <



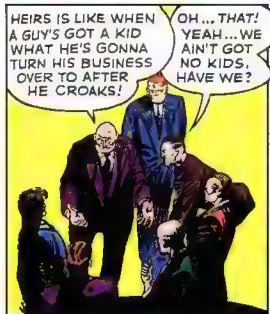
UNDERSTAND WHAT, BOSS?

UNDERSTAND THAT WE ALL GOTTA DIE SOME DAY ... AN' THAT WE AIN'T GONNA HAVE NO HEIRS TO TAKE OVER THE RACKETS!



HEIRS? WHAT'S HEIRS?

DON'T LOOK AT ME! I NEVER HAD NONE!



HEIRS IS LIKE WHEN A GUY'S GOT A KID WHAT HE'S GONNA TURN HIS BUSINESS OVER TO AFTER HE CROAKS!

OH ... THAT! YEAH ... WE AIN'T GOT NO KIDS, HAVE WE?



NO ... BUT WE COULD GET KIDS! ...

Y'MEAN SNATCH 'EM, BOSS?



SURE ... WHY NOT? WE SNATCH A FLOCK O' KIDS AN' GIVE 'EM A LOTTA EXPLOIT TRAININ' IN ALL TH' THINGS IT TOOK US YEARS TO LEARN! THEN WHEN WE KICK OFF, THEY CAN TAKE OVER ... AN' TH' "TERRIBLE TERRY" GILL MOB'LL STILL BE RUNNIN' THIS TOWN!

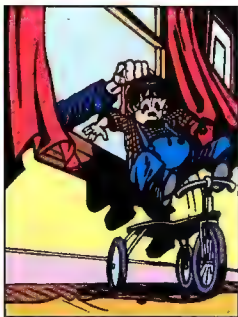


GET GOIN,' YOU GUYS! BRING ME KIDS ... LOTS OF 'EM ... AN' MAKE SURE THEY'RE YOUNG! TH' YOUNGER THEY ARE, TH' EASIER THEY ARE TO TEACH AN' TRAIN!

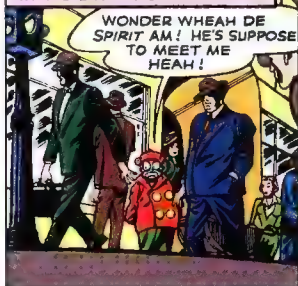
A KIDNAPPING EPIDEMIC HITS TOWN! ...



C'MON, KIDS!
YOUSE IS ABOUT
TO START ON A
GREAT CAREER!



IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT...



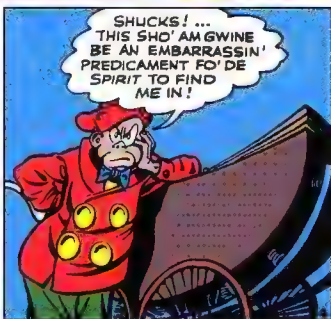
WONDER WHEAH DE
SPIRIT AM! HE'S SUPPOSE
TO MEET ME
HEAH!

OH... LITTLE BOY... YOU
WOULDN'T MIND KEEPING
AN EYE ON LITTLE AUBREY
FOR A FEW MINUTES WHILE
I GO INTO THAT STORE.
WOULD YOU?

WELL ... AH DON'T
KNOW, MA'AM...
AH AIN'T HAD
MUCH 'SPERIENCE
WIF DE YOUNGER
GEN'RASHUN!...



OH ... LITTLE AUBREY'S
NO TROUBLE AT ALL ...
AND I'LL ONLY BE
A FEW MINUTES... B.BUT...

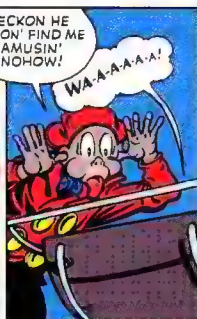


SHUCKS! ...
THIS SHO' AMGWINE
BE AN EMBARRASSIN'
PREDICAMENT FO' DE
SPIRIT TO FIND
ME IN!



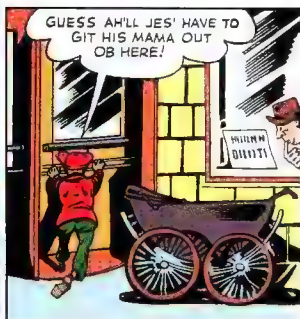
WA-A-A-A-A-A!

UH-OHH!
WHUT AM I
GWINE TO
DO NOW?

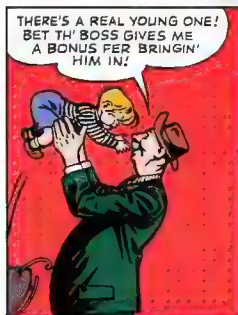


RECKON HE
DON' FIND ME
AMUSIN'
NOHOW!

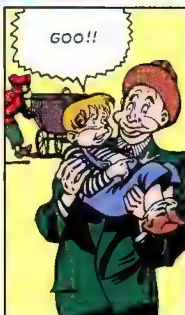
WA-A-A-A-A-A!



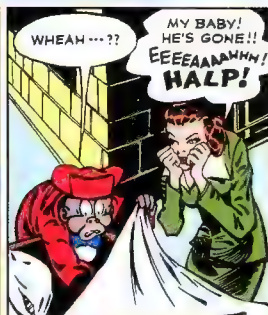
GUESS AH'LL JES' HAVE TO
GIT HIS MAMA OUT
OB HERE!



THERE'S A REAL YOUNG ONE!
BET TH' BOSS GIVES ME
A BONUS FER BRINGIN'
HIM IN!



GOO!!



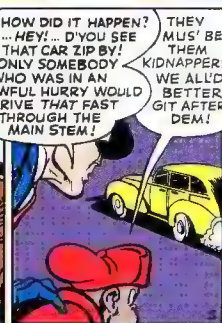
WHEAH...??

MY BABY!
HE'S GONE!!
EEEEAAHHH!
HALP!



WHAT
GOES ON
HERE?

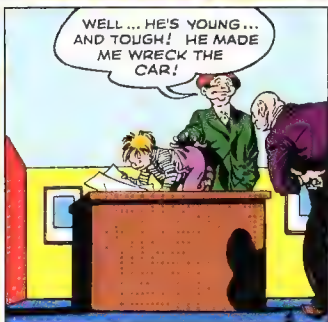
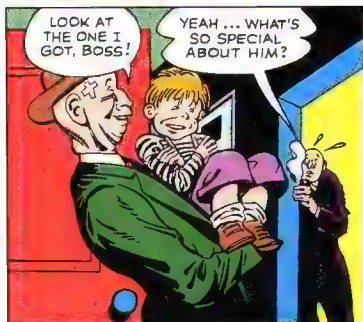
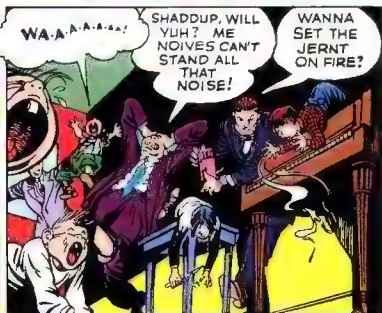
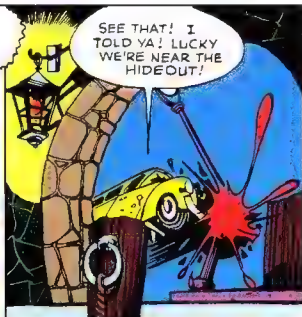
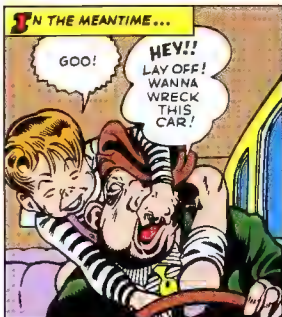
MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!
...IT'S ABOUT TIME
YO' CAME ALONG!
THEY'S BEEN A
KIDNAPPIN'!

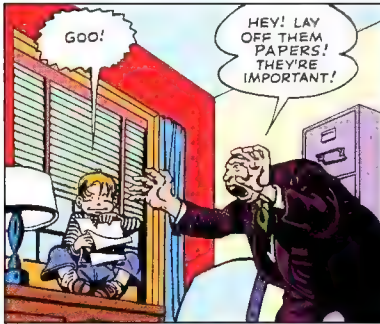


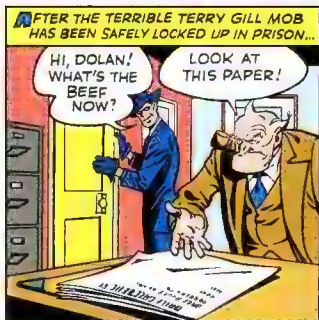
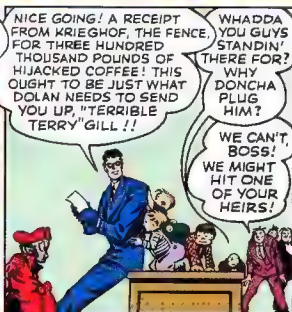
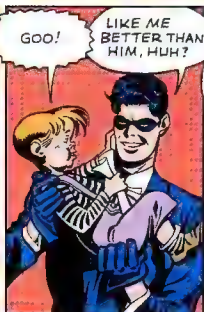
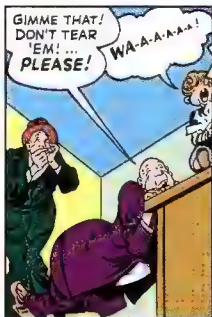
HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
...HEY!... D'YOU SEE
THAT CAR ZIP BY!
ONLY SOMEBODY
WHO WAS IN AN
AWFUL HURRY WOULD
DRIVE THAT FAST
THROUGH THE
MAIN STEM!



THEY
MUS' BE
THEM
KIDNAPPERS!
WE ALL'D
BETTER
GIT AFTER
DEM!





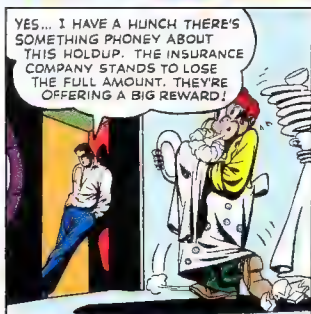
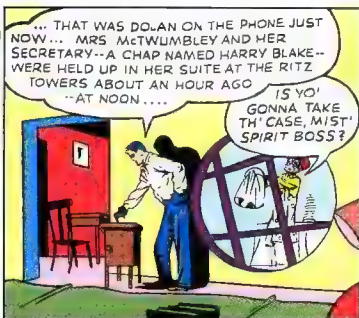
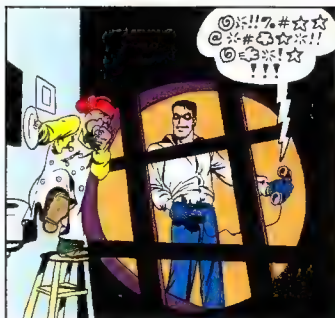


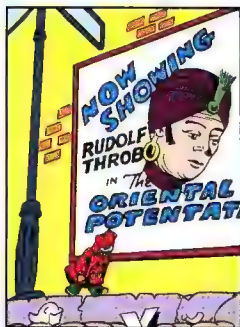
DIAMONDS ON ICE

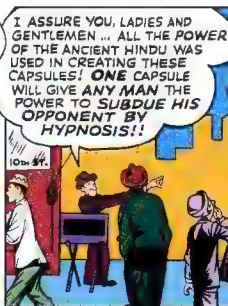
June 13 1943

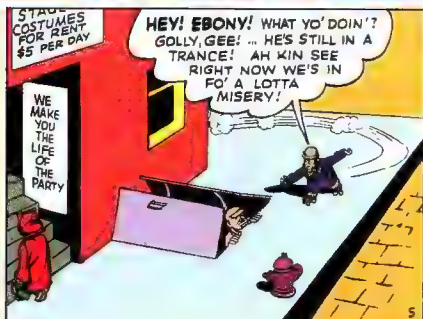
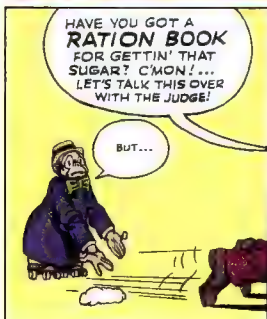
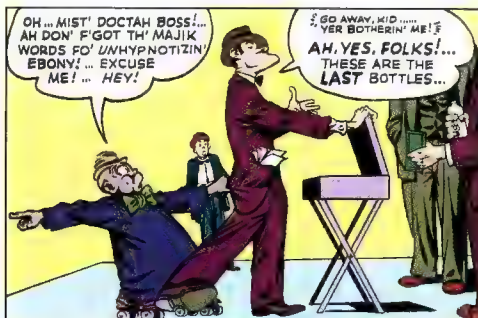
OH... EF'N ONEY PEOPLE
COULD SEE ME AS AH WOULD
SEE MAHSE'F...

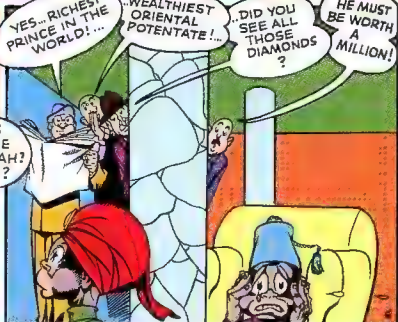
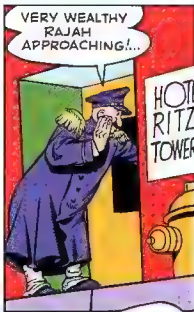
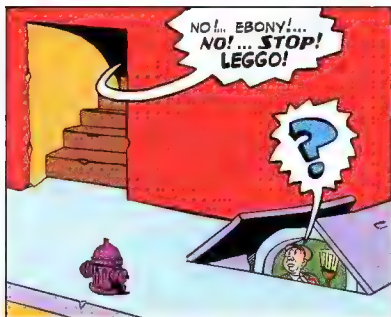






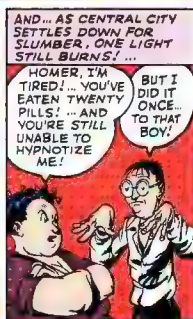






MEANWHILE... IN MRS. LIZZIE McTWUMBLEY'S RITZ TOWER SUITE...





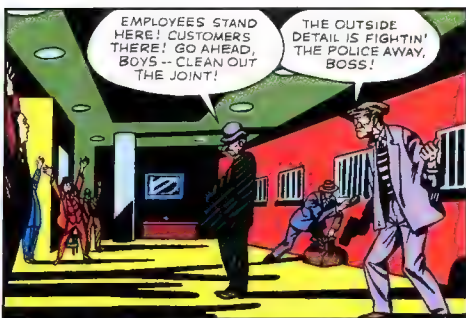
COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

PARROT PUGGINS

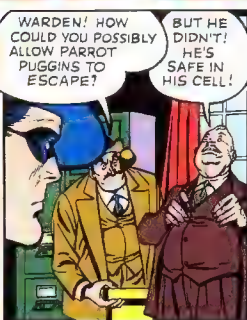
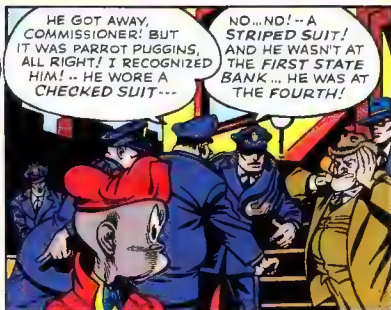
June 20 1943

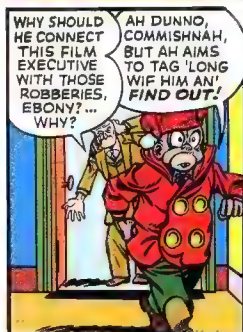
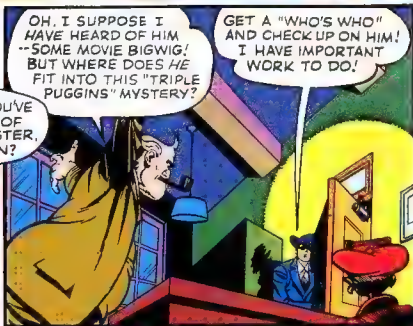
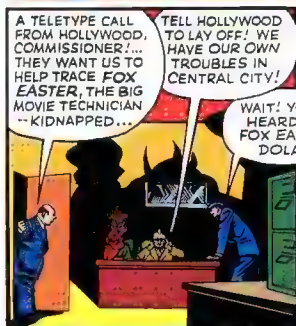
ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

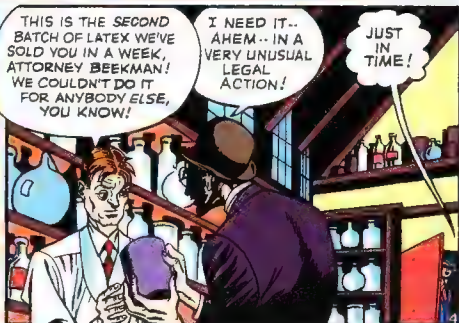
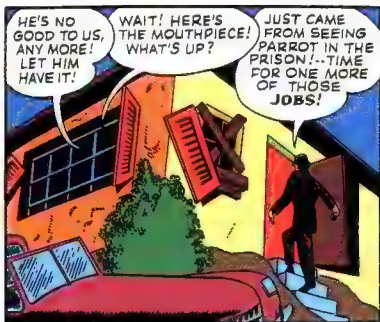


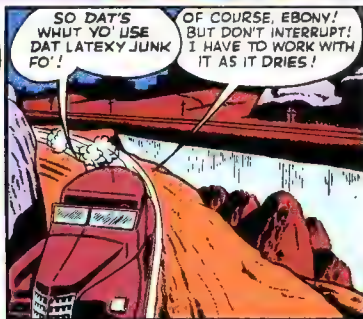


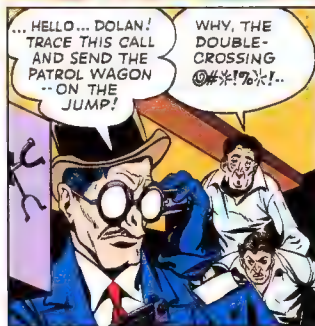
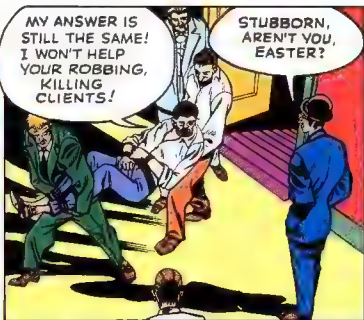
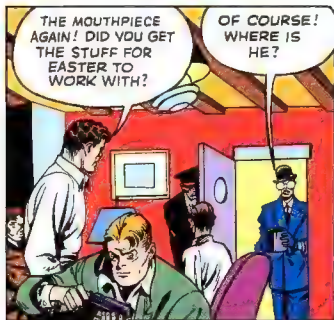
AT THE SAME TIME, ACROSS TOWN...



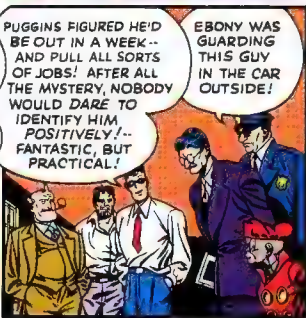










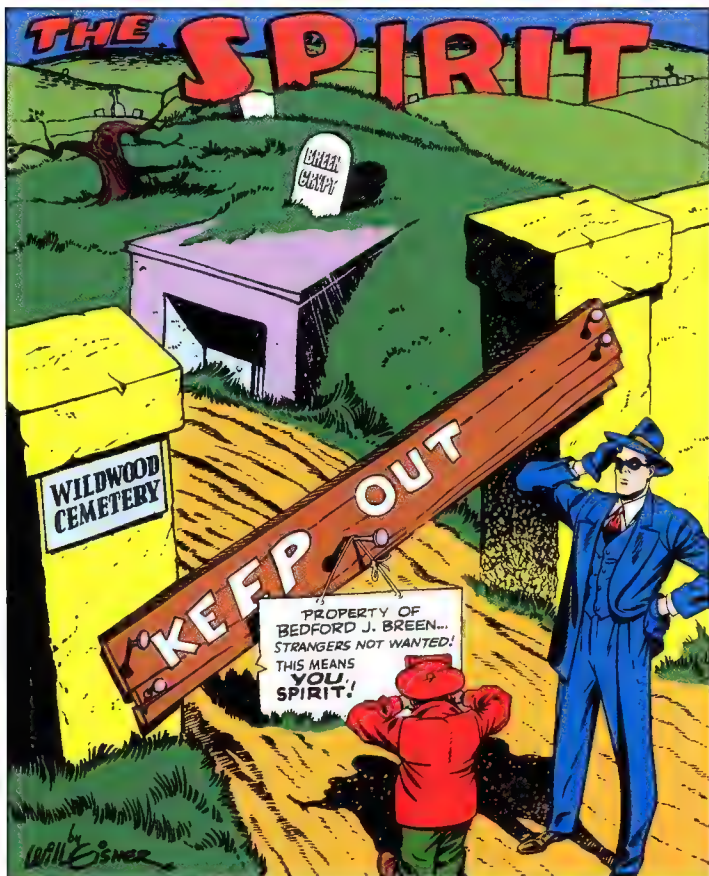


COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

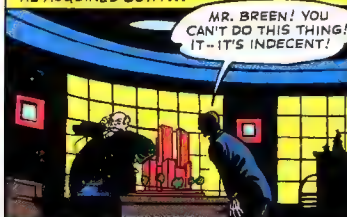
KEEP OUT

June 27 1943

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE



HIGH IN A TOWER OF AN OFFICE BUILDING IS THE PALATIAL SUITE OF OFFICES BELONGING TO BEDFORD J. BREEN, NOTED CHIEFLY FOR TWO THINGS, HIS MONEY AND HIS ENEMIES. A QUICK GLANCE WILL SUFFICE TO SHOW HOW HE ACQUIRED BOTH...



MR. BREEN! YOU CAN'T DO THIS THING! IT--IT'S INDECENT!



I OWN WILDWOOD CEMETERY, DON'T I?

YOUR GREAT GRAND-FATHER LEFT IT TO YOU, YES! BUT I'M SURE HE NEVER MEANT YOU TO USE IT FOR A BUILDING PROJECT!



YOU'RE FIRED WILLIAMS! I OWN WILDWOOD CEMETERY! AND I'LL DECIDE WHAT'S TO BE DONE WITH IT!

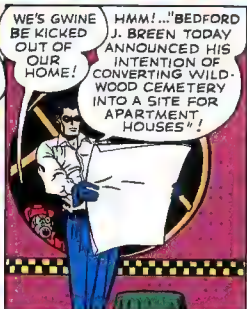
Y--YES, MR. BREEN!



MEANWHILE... IN WILDWOOD CEMETERY...

MIST' SPIRIT! DID YO' READ DE PAPUH? WE'S RUINED!!

WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, EBONY?



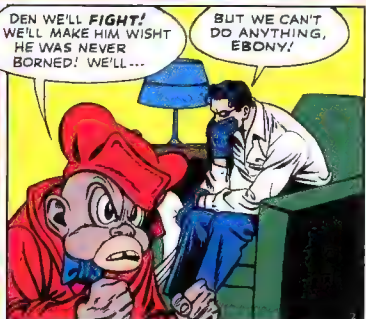
WE'S GWINE BE KICKED OUT OF OUR HOME!

HMM!..."BEDFORD J. BREEN TODAY ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION OF CONVERTING WILDWOOD CEMETERY INTO A SITE FOR APARTMENT HOUSES"!



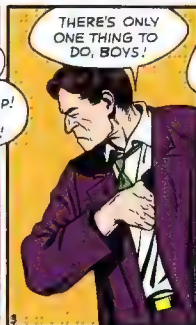
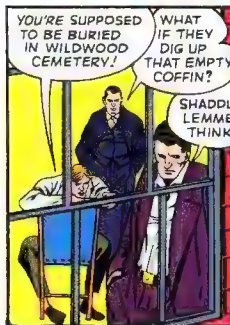
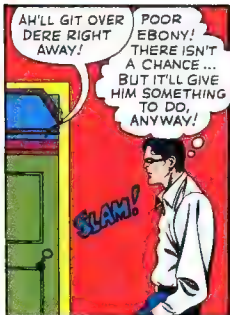
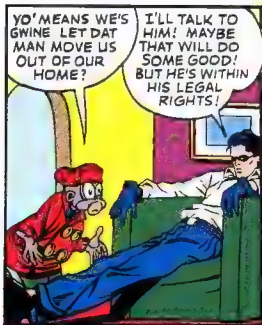
HE CAN'T DO DAT TO US, CAN HE, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS?

HE OWNS WILDWOOD! I'M AFRAID HE CAN DO WHATEVER HE LIKES!



DEN WE'LL FIGHT! WE'LL MAKE HIM WISHT HE WAS NEVER BORNED! WE'LL...

BUT WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING, EBONY!



LATER... AT BEDFORD J. BREEN'S OFFICE...



IF YOU WON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND, WILL YOU LET ME BUY ONE OF THE TOMBS? I HAVE AN... ER... SENTIMENTAL REGARD FOR DENNY COLT'S LAST RESTING PLACE!

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

NOW GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER!



GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TELL EBONY TO PACK OUR THINGS! WE'RE LEAVING WILDWOOD!



D-DID YOU SEE WHO JUST WENT BY?

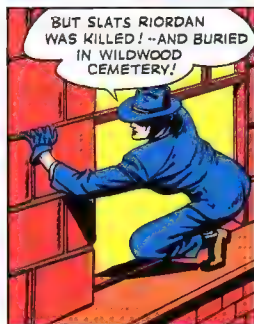
THE SPIRIT!



I DON'T CARE SO MUCH FOR MYSELF! BUT THIS WILL BREAK EBONY'S HEART!... SAY!!



I MUST BE DREAMING! THAT BIRD LOOKED LIKE SLATS RIORDAN!

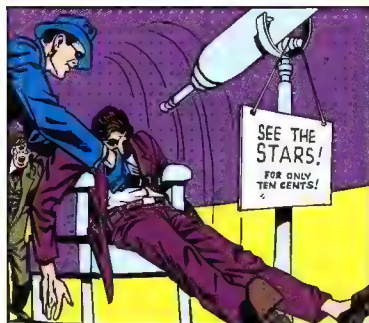
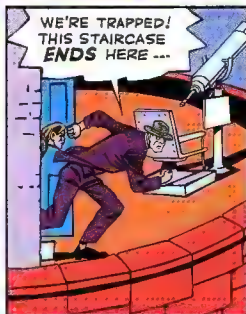
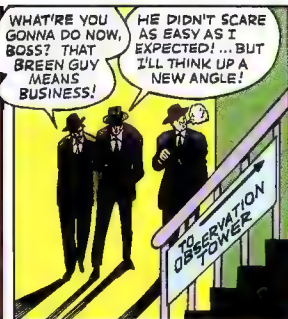


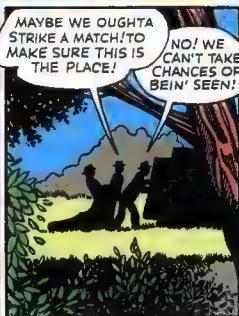
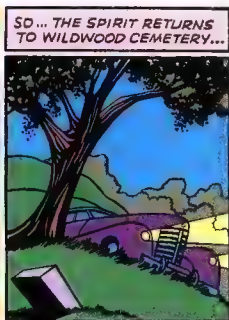
BUT SLATS RIORDAN WAS KILLED! --AND BURIED IN WILDWOOD CEMETERY!



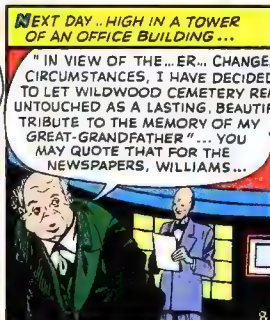
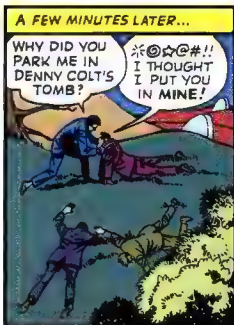
YOUR THREATS DON'T FRIGHTEN ME! LEAVE MY OFFICE BEFORE I CALL THE POLICE!

YOU'LL BE SORRY, MR. BREEN! I GOT A PERSONAL REASON FOR WANTING NOBODY TO TOUCH WILDWOOD CEMETERY!

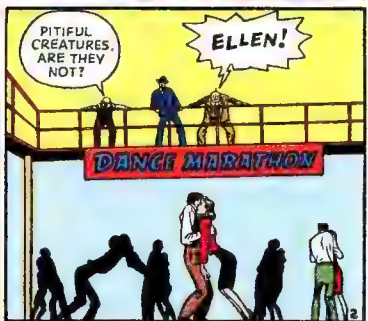
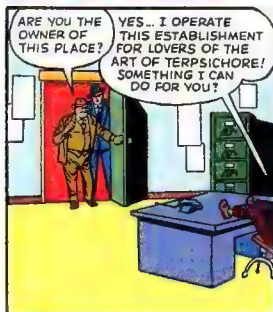
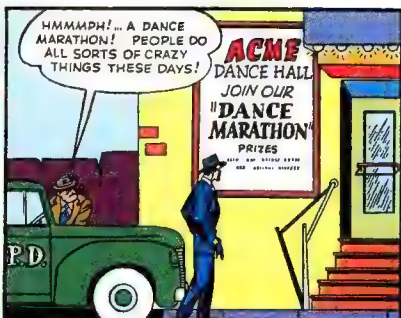




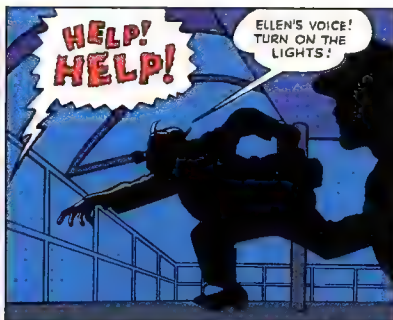


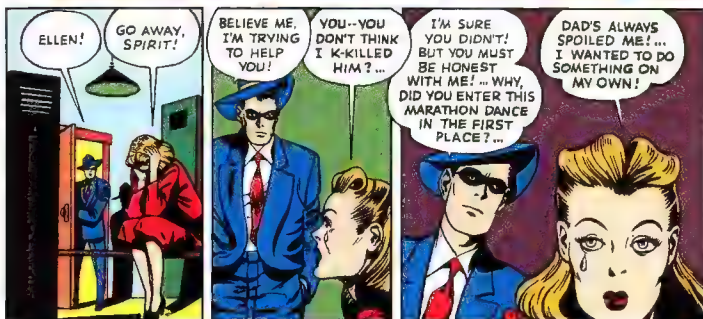
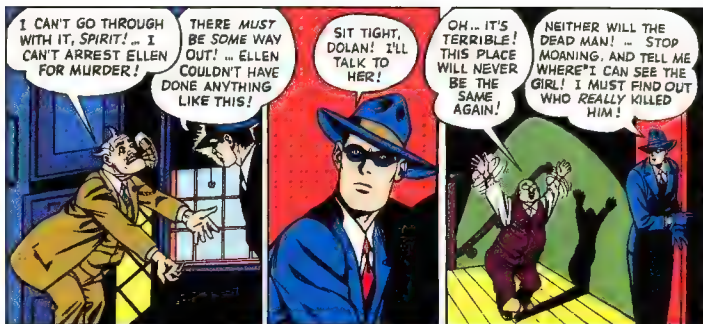




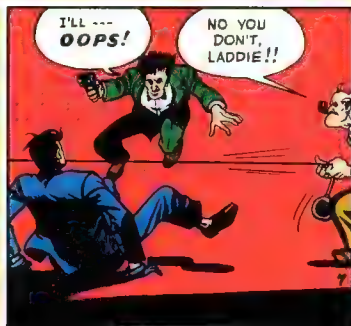
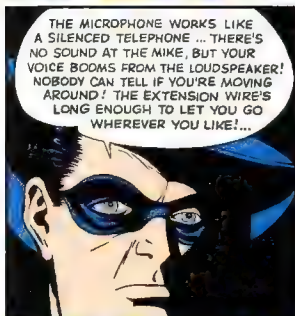
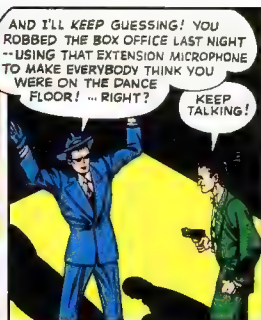














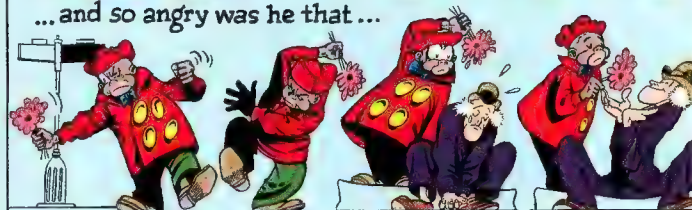
THE SPIRIT

by Will Eisner

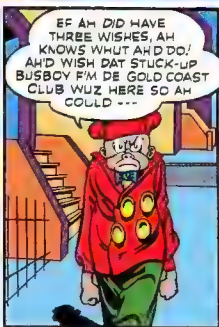
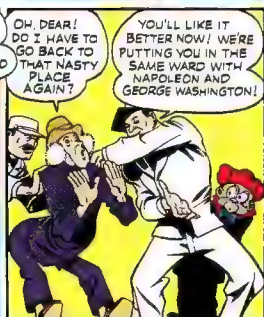
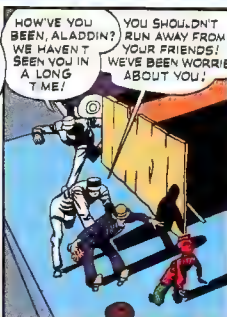
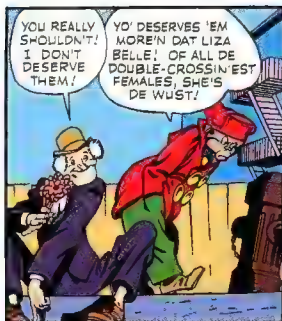
ONCE UPON A TIME... in a place called CENTRAL CITY, there lived a little boy named Ebony White.

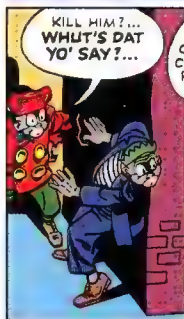


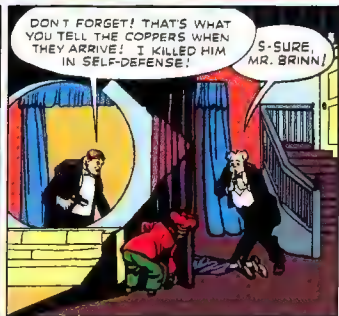
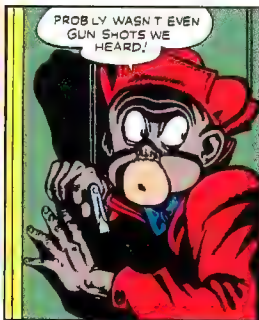
...and so angry was he that ...

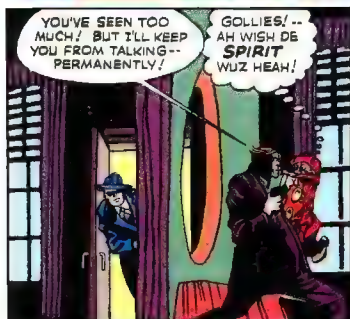


when the little man could at last dry his tears,
he looked right at Ebony and said

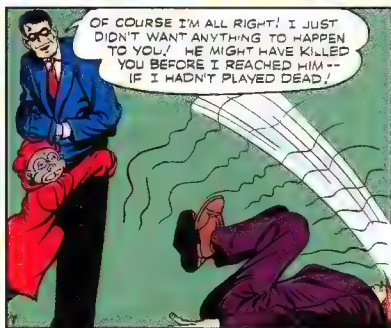
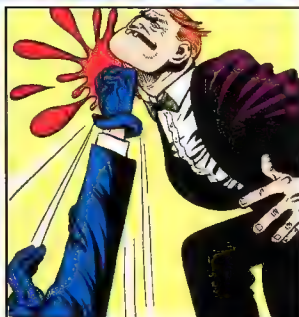


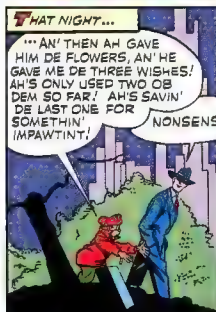












THE SPIRIT

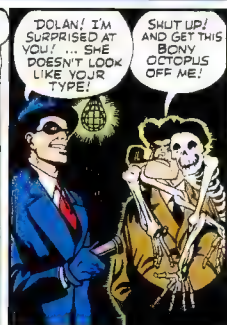
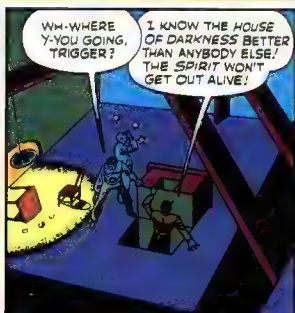
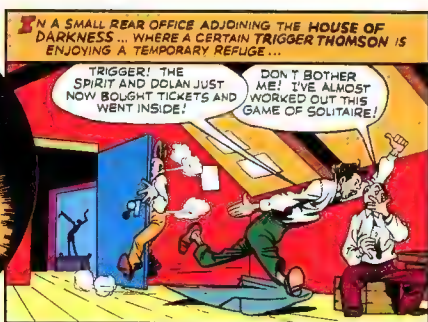
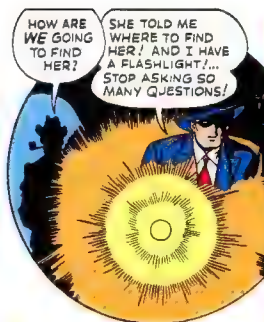
by
Will Eisner

STEP RRR-R-RIGHT UP, FOLKS!... THE
BIGGEST THRILL ON THE MIDWAY! ... THE
HOUSE OF DARKNESS!! ... A THOUSIND-
AN'-WAN PASSAGES -- A THOUSIND-AN'-WAN
THRILLS -- A THOUSIND-AN'-WAN SURPRISES!
-- FER ONEY A DIME -- TEN CENTS -- WAN
TENTH OF A DOLLAR! --YESSIR!

WELL, SPIRIT...
WHERE'S MRS. OLCOTT?
YOUR NOTE SAID THAT SHE
WASN'T MURDERED AT ALL...
SO I'VE CALLED
OFF MY
MEN!

NO. DOLAN ... SHE'S BEEN HIDING IN VARIOUS PARTS OF TOWN, LEST WHOEVER IT IS SHE FEARS CATCHES UP WITH HER! ... SHE'S NOW IN THIS HORROR HOUSE ... WON'T COME OUT UNLESS WE GO IN AND CONVOY HER OUT TO SAFETY!...SHE SAID TO FOLLOW THE GREEN LIGHTS!





WHILE DEEPER IN THE MAZES OF THE HOUSE OF DARKNESS, MRS. OLCOTT WAITS IMPATIENTLY FOR COMMISSIONER DOLAN...

I HEARD SOMEONE MOVE! IS THAT YOU, COMMISSIONER?



WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER?



HE'S FOUND ME! BUT I'LL LOSE HIM IN THE DARKNESS!... HE CAN'T SEE ME IN HERE!



OH!!

1-1-

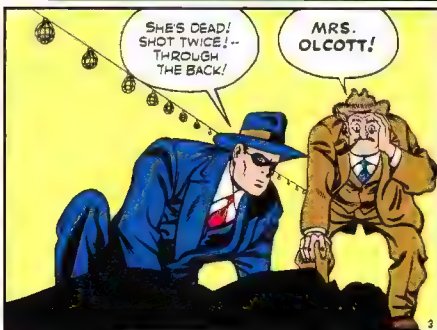


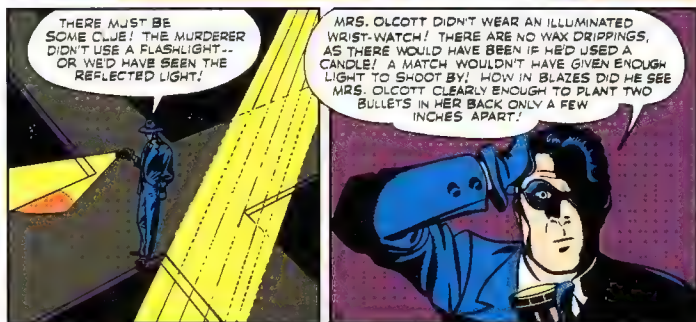
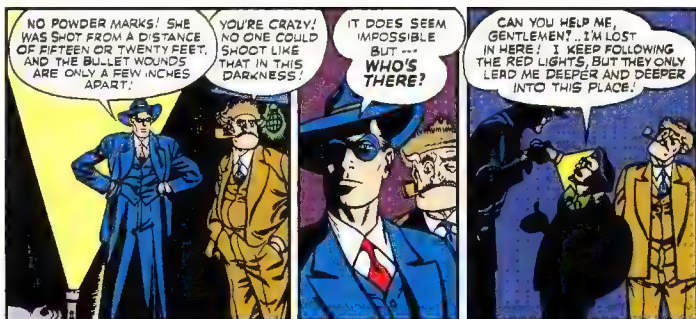
GUN SHOTS, DOLAN! THIS WAY...

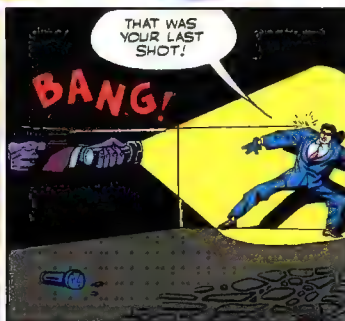


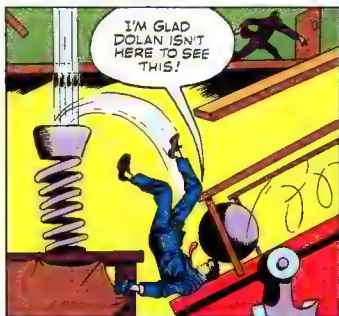
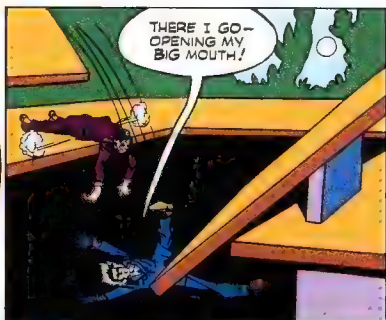
SHE'S DEAD! SHOT TWICE!-- THROUGH THE BACK!

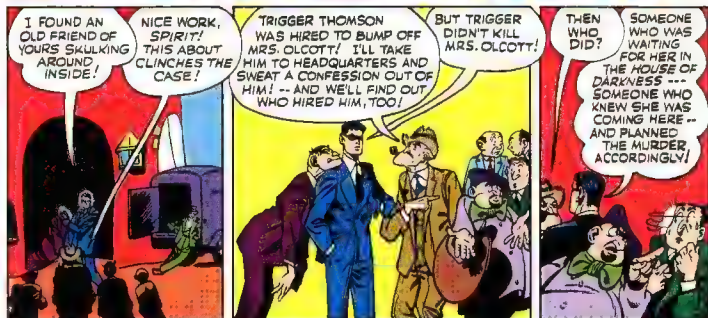
MRS. OLCOTT!

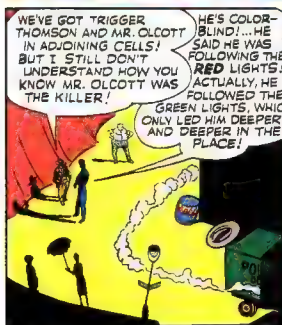












THE SPIRIT



WAKING WAS LIKE THE FEELING A DROWNING MAN HAS WHEN HE FIGHTS HIS WAY BACK TO THE SURFACE OF THE SEA!...

by
WILL
EISNER



WHERE AM I?...
WHAT AM I
DOING
HERE?



**I REMEMBER
NOW! ... THERE
WAS A STRUGGLE!
-- WONDER HOW
LONG AGO THAT
WAS? ...**



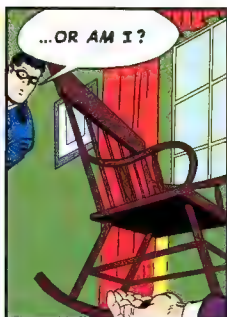
M-MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!...

EBONY!

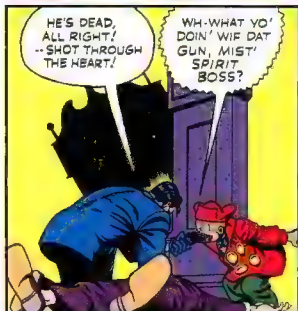


THANK HEBBENS
YO'S SAFE! ... AH
BEEN LOOK N'
EVERYWHERE
FO' YO!

OF COURSE
I'M SAFE!
... WHY
SHOULDN'T
I BE?



...OR AM I?



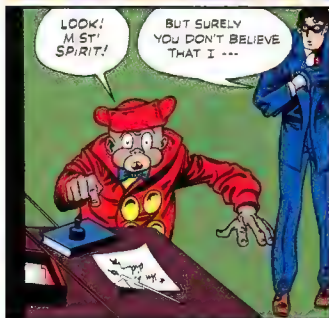
HE'S DEAD,
ALL RIGHT!
--SHOT THROUGH
THE HEART!

WH-WHAT YO'
DOIN' WIF DAT
GUN, MIST'
SPIRIT
BOSS?



I CAN'T IMAGINE!...
A CARTRIDGE HAS BEEN
FIRED FROM THIS
GUN, TOO!

D-DAT'S WH-WHAT AH
WAS AFRAID,
OF!



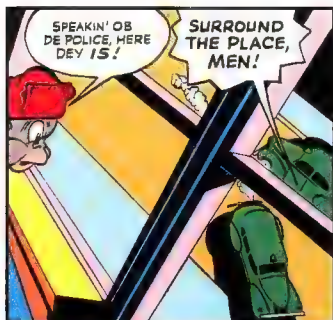
LOOK!
M ST'
SPIRIT!

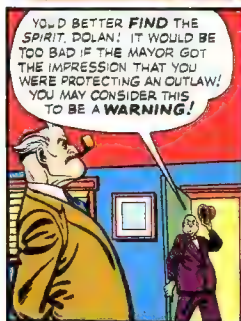
BUT SURELY
YOU DON'T BELIEVE
THAT I ---

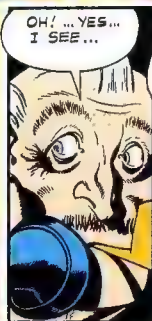


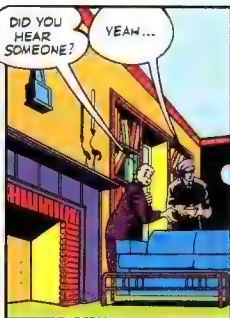
AH DON' BELIEVE
YO' D D IT! ... BUT WHAT'S
TH' POLICE T' THINK WHEN
THEY SEE DAT?

*Mr. Spirit
didn't*













ANOTHER REDSKIN
BIT THE DUST! ENTER
GENERAL CUSTER
WITH THE
CAVALRY!

WHAT'S
GOING ON,
HERE?



S-SP-SPIRIT
DIDN'T--DO IT,
COMMISSIONER!
I--I--HIRED FRANK
MULVANEY! H--HE
KILLED ... MY
BROTHER!...



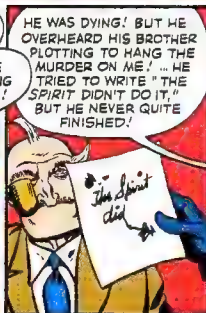
WHO'S
FRANK
MULVANEY
?

HE'S THE ONE WITH THE
SWEET EXPRESSION! ...
STRICTLY A GUNMAN FOR
HIRE! HE'S ALMOST
AS TOUGH AS HE
THINKS HE IS!



THIS CASE IS
WOUND UP TIGHT!
YOU'D NEVER HAVE
BEEN IN TROUBLE,
IF IT HADN'T BEEN
FOR THIS NOTE!

QUEER!
BECAUSE
THE MAN
WHO WROTE
IT WAS TRYING
TO HELP ME!



HE WAS DYING! BUT HE
OVERHEARD HIS BROTHER
PLOTING TO HANG THE
MURDER ON ME! ... HE
TRIED TO WRITE "THE
SPIRIT DIDN'T DO IT,"
BUT HE NEVER QUITE
FINISHED!



COMMISSIONER
DOLAN! THERE ARE
TWO POLICEMEN HERE
WHO SAY THEY'VE
CAPTURED THE
SPIRIT!

WHAT?
... SEND
THEM
IN!



WE DIDN'T GET THE
SPIRIT, COMMISSIONER!
-- BUT WE GOT HIS
ASSISTANT!

SHALL WE SWEAT
HIM TO FIND OUT
WHERE THE
SPIRIT'S HIDING?

◎☆!%!!
YOU
DUMB--
◎%#◎!



YOU COULDN'T
CATCH A COLD!
I'VE GOT A
GOOD MIND
TO ---

COME ALONG,
EBONY! --
WE'VE BEEN
IN ENOUGH
TROUBLE
FOR ONE DAY!

COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

THE MAESTRO

August 1, 1943

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

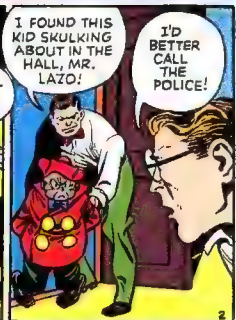
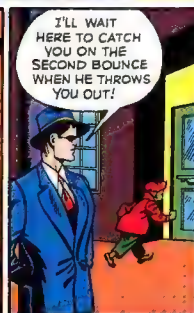
the SPIRIT

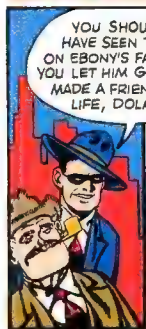
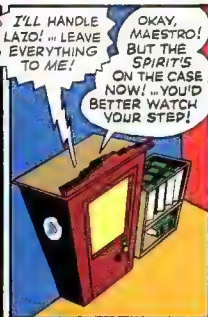
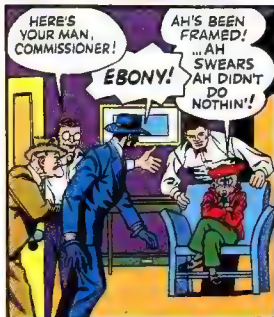
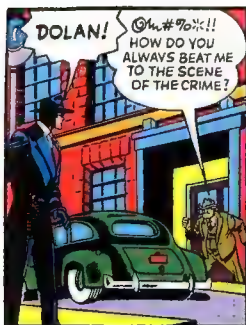
"B

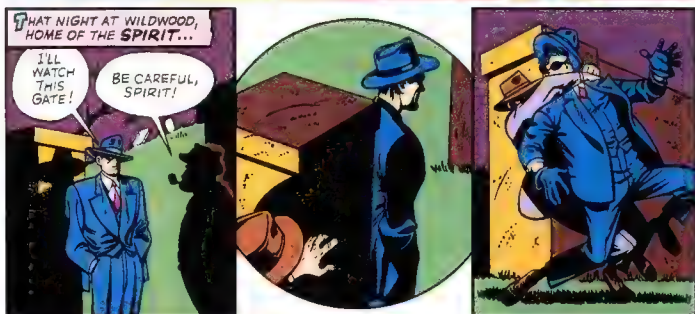
EAT ME, DADDY, EIGHT TO
THE BAR " is music to
Ebony's ears! ...

But with The *SPIRIT* leading
the band, it's "PRISON BARS"
that even the "score"
with the "Maestro"!





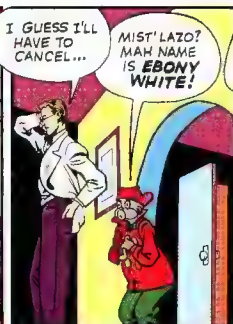






Meanwhile...

WHERE'S THAT
DRUMMER?... WE'RE
DUE AT SEA ISLAND
CASINO IN AN HOUR!
WE CAN'T START
WITHOUT HIM!



I GUESS I'LL
HAVE TO
CANCEL...

MIST' LAZO?
MAH NAME
IS **EBONY
WHITE!**



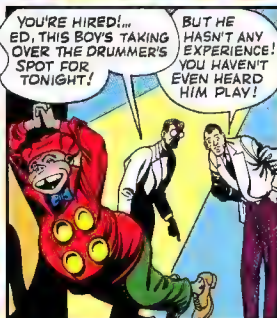
I CAN'T BE
BOtherED NOW!
...I'LL SIGN YOUR
AUTOGRAPH BOOK
SOME OTHER
TIME!

AH WONDAHs EF
YO' HAS GOT AN
OPENIN' FO' A
MAN WHO
KNOWS HOW
TO BEAT DE
DRUMS!...



ARE YOU
A DRUMMER
BOY?

Y-YASSUH!



YOU'RE HIRED!...
ED, THIS BOYS TAKING
OVER THE DRUMMER'S
SPOT FOR
TONIGHT!

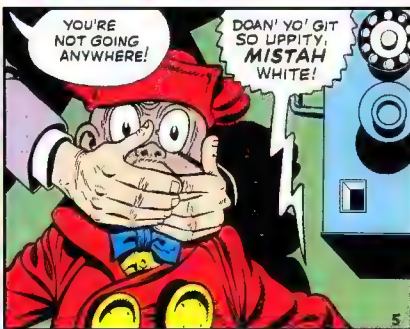
BUT HE
HASN'T ANY
EXPERIENCE!
YOU HAVEN'T
EVEN HEARD
HIM PLAY!



HE'S BETTER
THAN NO DRUMMER
AT ALL! ...AND WE
MUST OPEN AT THE
SEA ISLAND CASINO! ...
WE CAN HELP HIM
FAKE THROUGH!

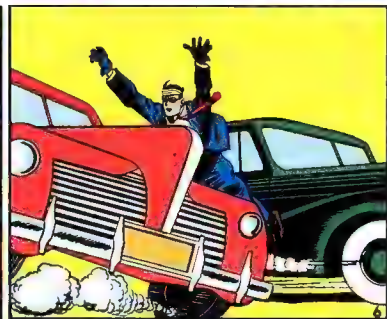
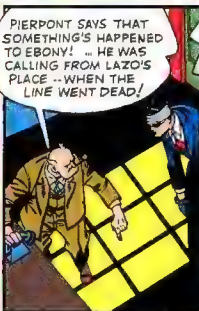
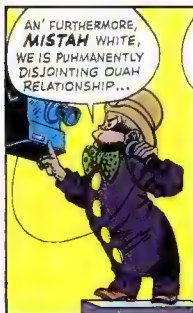


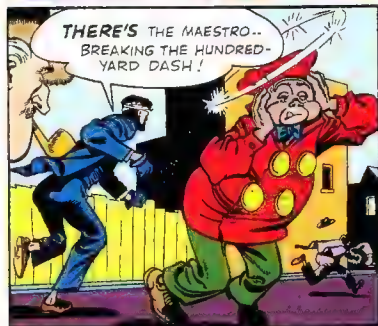
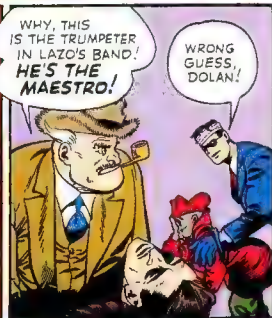
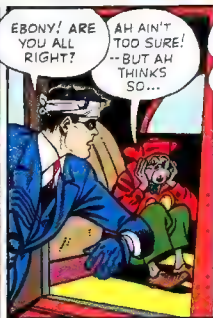
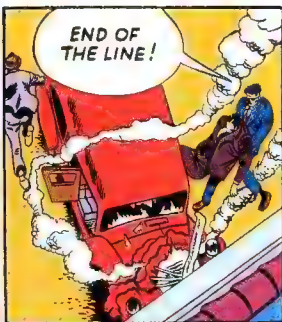
AH 'SPECTS AH'LL
BE MIGHTY BUSY FROM
NOW ON, PIERPONT! ... WE
MOOSICIANS TRAVELS ALL
OVER DE COUNTRY!

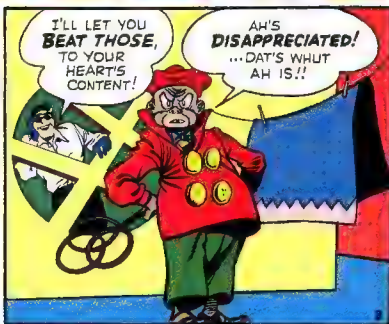
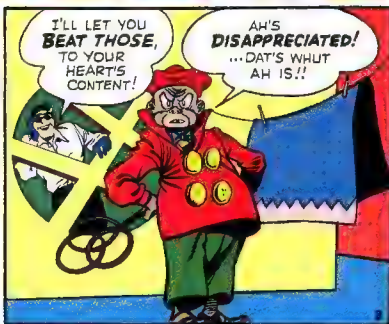
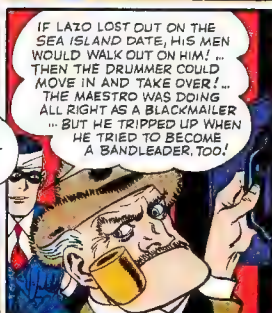


YOU'RE
NOT GOING
ANYWHERE!

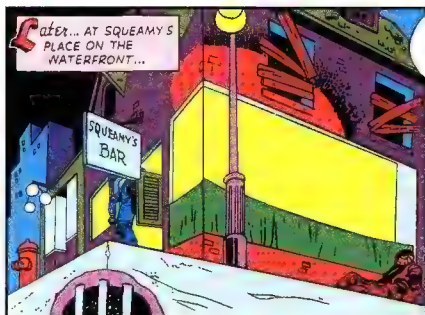
DOAN' YO' GIT
SO UPPITY,
**MISTAH
WHITE!**

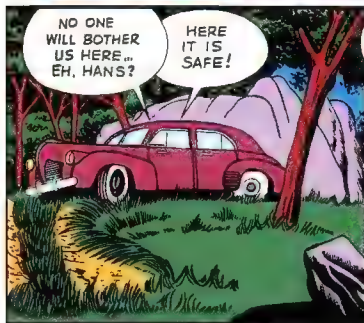
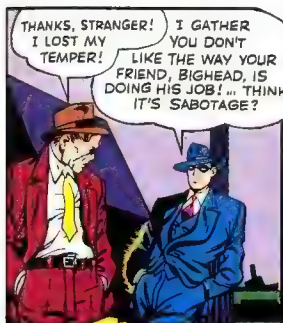


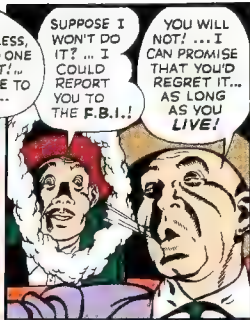


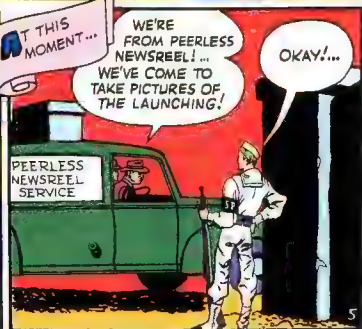
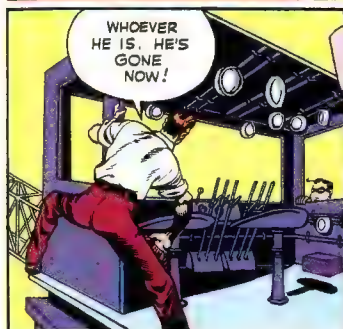


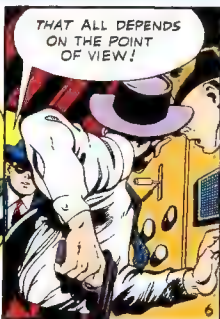
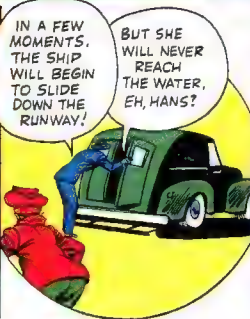
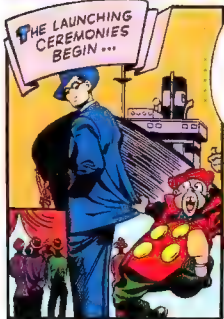
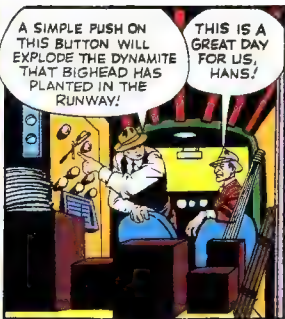
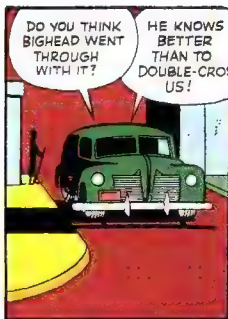


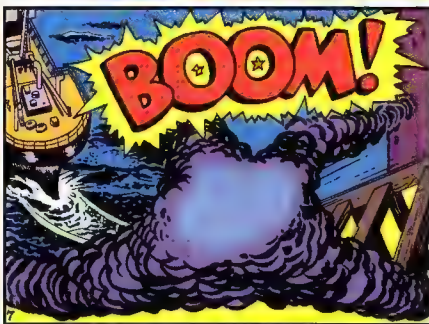








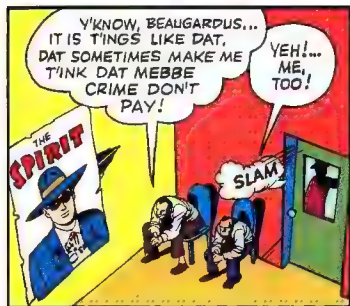
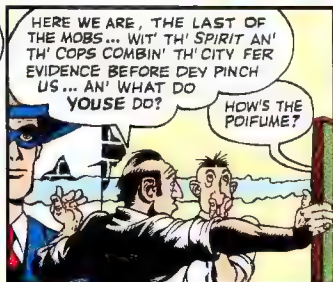
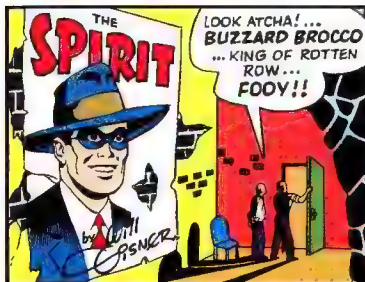






**THE LAST GANG IN ROTTEN
ROW**

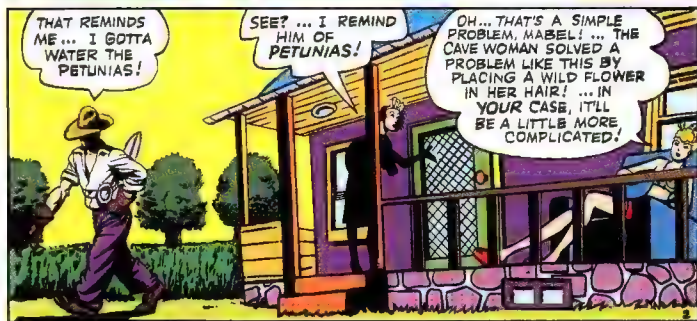
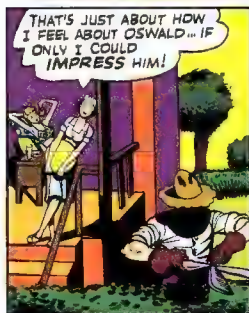
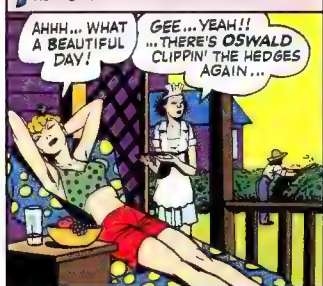
August 15, 1943

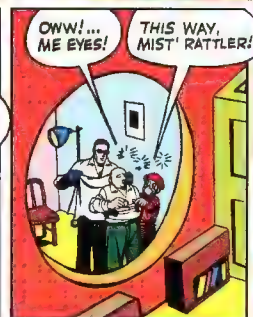
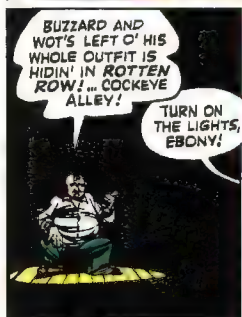
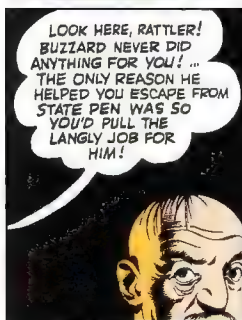


... AND SO IT WAS THAT CUPID ENTERED THE FIELD OF CRIME DETECTION... AND, AS THE SPIRIT'S SILENT PARTNER, PLAYED A POTENT PART IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE LAST OF THE GANGS IN ROTTEN ROW!...



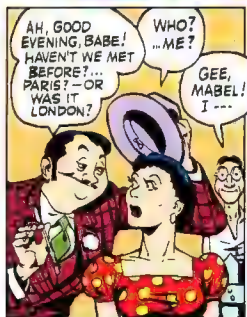
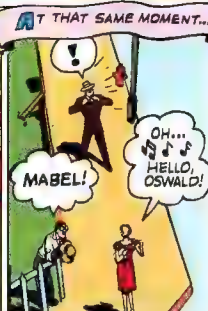
THE HOME OF COMMISSIONER DOLAN...



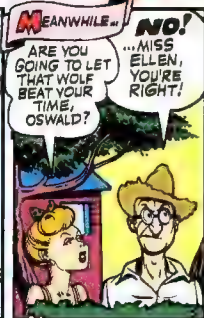
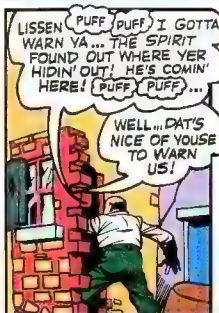


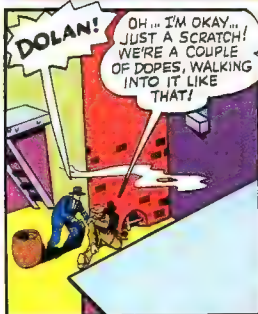


GOLLY,
MISS ELLEN
... I'M
BEAUTIFUL!



One Hour Later... EVENING... ALL THE SUMMER NOISES HAVE CEASED... A HUSHED SILENCE DESCENDS OVER COCKEYE ALLEY...



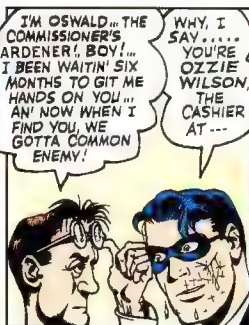




YOU'LL NEVER GIT 'EM THAT WAY, DOPE!

??

WHO ARE YOU?



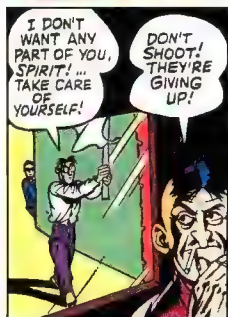
I'M OSWALD... THE COMMISSIONER'S GARDENER! BOY!... I BEEN WAITIN' SIX MONTHS TO GIT ME HANDS ON YOU... AN' NOW WHEN I FIND YOU, WE GOTTA COMMON ENEMY!

WHY, I SAY.... YOU'RE OZZIE WILSON, THE CASHIER AT ---



YEAH... YOU SENT ME TO JAIL ALONG WITH THOSE CROOKS SIX MONTHS AGO!... I TOOK THE DOLAN JOB JUST SO'S I COULD MEET YOU AND ----

HEY!... WAIT!!



I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF YOU, SPIRIT!... TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

DON'T SHOOT! THEY'RE GIVING UP!



HEY!... WAIT A MINUTE! WE THOUGHT YOU WAS TH' COPS, GIVIN' UP!

NAW... THEY'RE STILL LAYIN' FOR YA! "I CAME FOR MY GIRL!--HAND HER OVER!



WAAAA!



HE WANTS HIS GOIL! HAW-HAW!

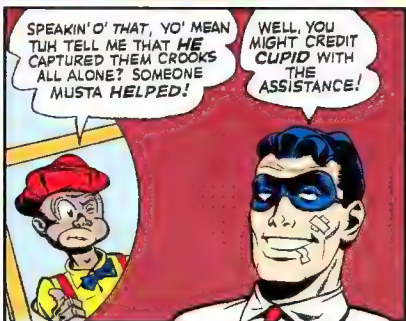
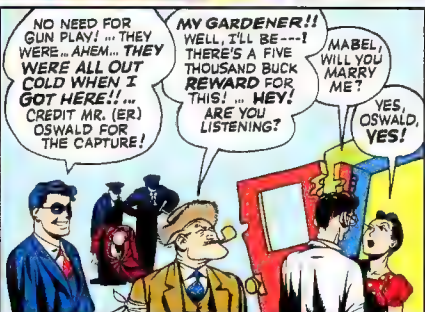


UNGH!



MEANWHILE...

OUCH! MY ARM!... HE MUST'VE BROKEN IT! WELL... AT LEAST, HE SHOWED ME THE WAY....



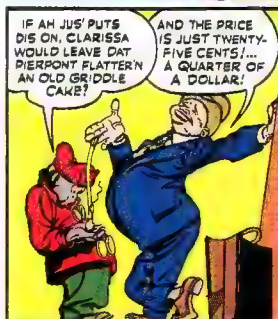
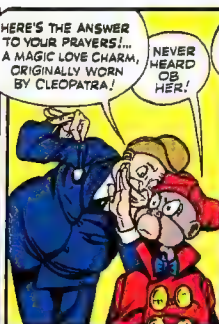
COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

ON THE FERRIS WHEEL

August 22, 1943

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE





LEAVING THE DOMAIN OF DOMESTIC ALLEY CATS, LET US LOOK IN ON TWO OF THE HUMAN VARIETY...

THE SPIRIT'S WISE TO OUR SET-UP! HE TRACED DOWN THAT LAST ACCIDENT CASE AND FOUND OUT IT WAS MY BROTHER-IN-LAW!

THAT DON'T LISTEN SO GOOD! WE OUGHTA BLOW TOWN!

HORACE BLADDER DON'T RUN OUT ON A GOOD THING! I'VE PAID MYSELF PLENTY IN FAKE ACCIDENT CLAIMS! AND THE SPIRIT'S NOT GOING TO STOP ME!

YOU'RE GOING TO FIX THE SPIRIT SO HE WON'T TALK!

BUT... MR. BLADDER...

YOU HEARD ME, WEASEL! GET GOING!

OKAY, MR. BLADDER! ONLY... I DON'T LIKE IT! ... THE SPIRIT IS A GOOD GUY TO STAY AWAY FROM!

MEANWHILE... AT WILDWOOD CEMETERY...

MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! AH JUS' HAD DE MOS' EXCRUCIATIN' EXPERIENCE!

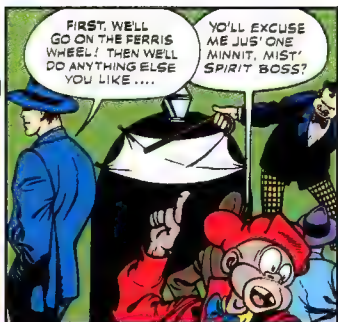
DON'T BOTHER ME! ... I'M CHECKING THE LIST OF ACCIDENT CLAIMS MADE BY HORACE BLADDER!

FURTHERMORE, THE DISHES HAVEN'T BEEN WASHED! ... GET BUSY!

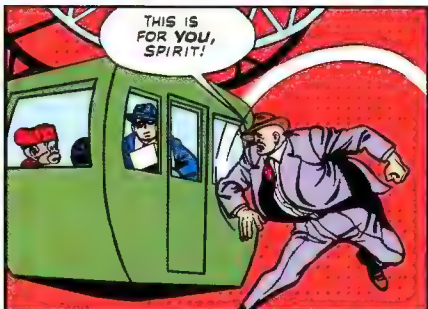
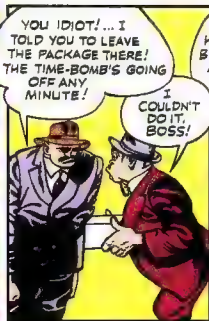
DIS OL' LOVE CHARM SHO'DONT WORK ON MIST' SPIRIT!

JUST A MINUTE, EBONY! I SHOULDN'T SPEAK TO YOU SO HARSHLY! ... I-I DIDN'T MEAN TO ... I'VE BEEN NEGLECTING YOU LATELY, HAVEN'T I?

NEVER MIND THE DISHES! I'LL WASH THEM MYSELF! IT'S TIME I SHOWED YOU JUST HOW MUCH I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU, EBONY! ...







AT THIS MOMENT, THE SWINGING CAR MOVES TO THE INSIDE OF THE HUGE FERRIS WHEEL...



GIT IT AWAY!

I CAN'T THROW IT OUT! ... WE'RE ON THE INSIDE OF THE WHEEL!



MIST' SPIRIT!... WHUT YO' GONNA DO?



IF THIS THING DOESN'T EXPLODE IN THE NEXT FEW SECONDS...

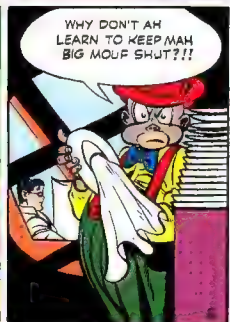
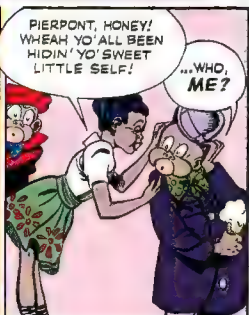


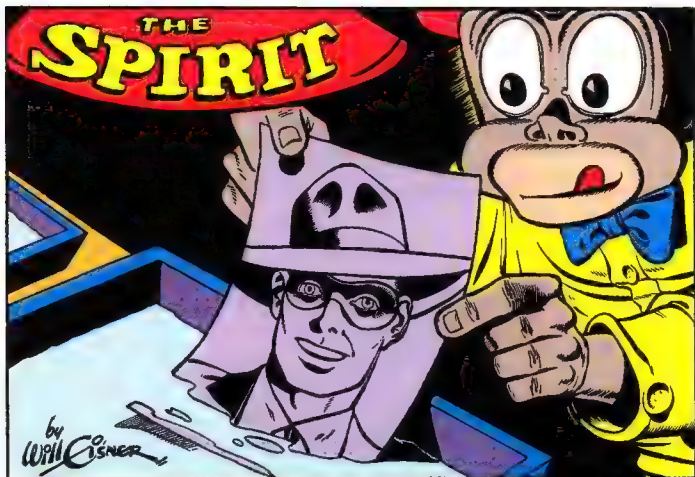
-- I'LL THROW A STRIKE FROM CENTERFIELD TO THE PLATE!



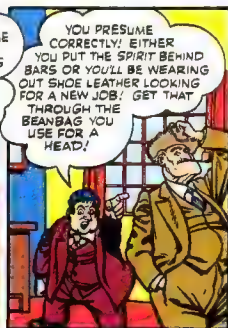
MADE IT!...
THAT'LL LAND WHERE NOBODY'LL GET HURT!

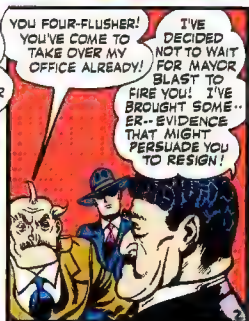


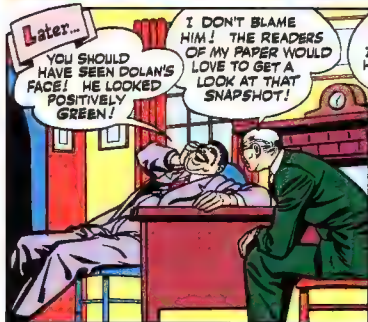
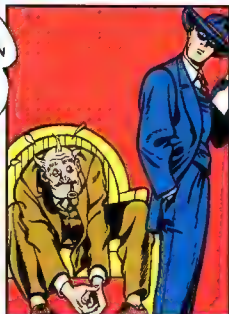


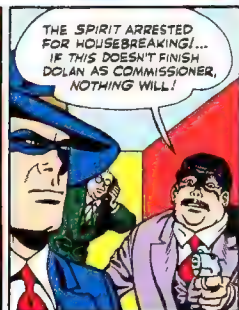
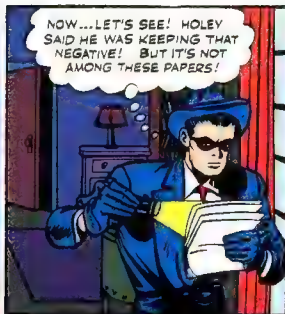


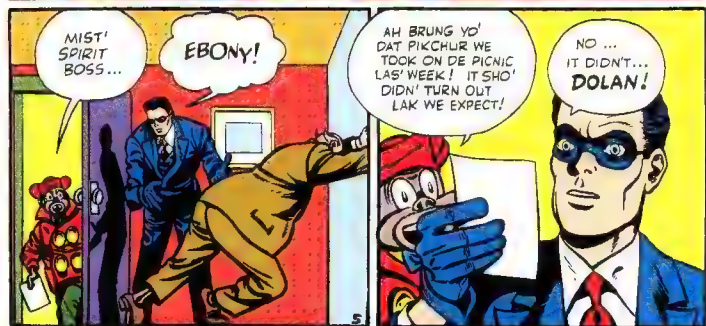
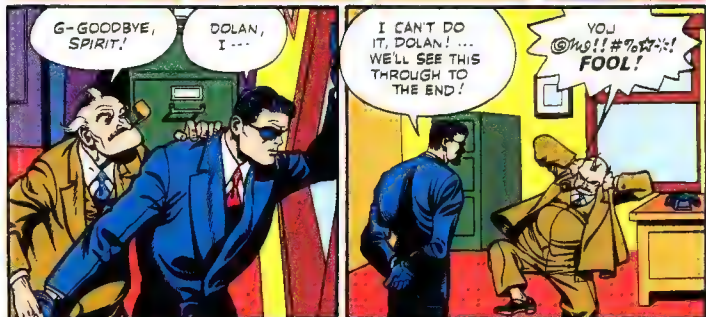
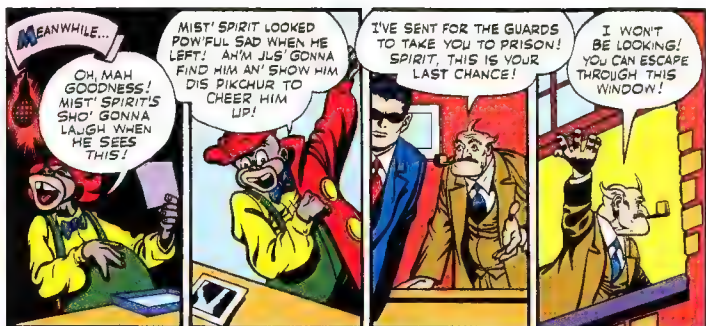
ON this particular day, Mayor Blast kept a tight rein on his temper... but it finally broke loose and began galloping about unshod! ...





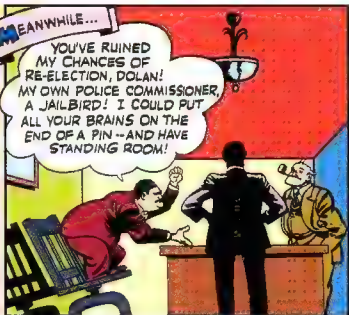












COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

THE ART OF MAKING LOVE ARDENTLY

September 5, 1943

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

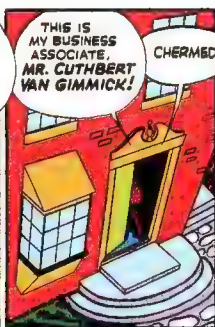






HUH! DON'T TELL ME DAT DERWOOD HAD DE NOIVE TO COME CALLIN' ON COMMISSIONER DOLAN HISSELF!

CUTHBERT, MY DEAR FELLOW! ... COME IN AND MEET SOME VERY CLOSE FRIENDS!



THIS IS MY BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, MR. CUTHBERT VAN GIMMICK!

CHERMED!



IS DIS DE BABE YA VANNA MARRY, DERWOOD? WELL, ALL I CAN SAY IS, YOU SURE PICK 'EM!

ER--MR. VAN GIMMICK, MAY I PRESENT THE SPIRIT?



I HAVE A HAZY IDEA THAT I'VE MET MR. VAN GIMMICK BEFORE!

NOSSIR! ... I NEVER SEEN YA IN MY LIFE!



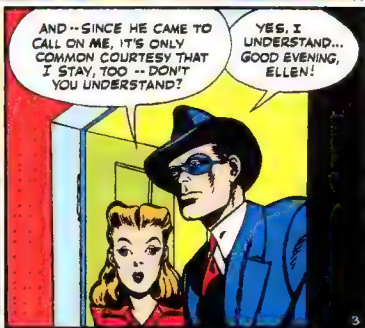
MAYBE NOT ... AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK I'VE SEEN ONLY A PHOTO-GRAPH OF YOU! ... I VAGUELY REMEMBER IT--IN SOME KIND OF--ER--GALLERY ...

IMPOSSIBLE! I NEVER HAD MY PICKSHER TAKEN! --I FIGGER IT FER BAD LUCK!



IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR OUR CONCERT DATE, ELLEN!

OH--I'M SORRY, BUT--YOU SEE ... DADDY HAS INVITED DERWOOD TO STAY FOR DINNER!

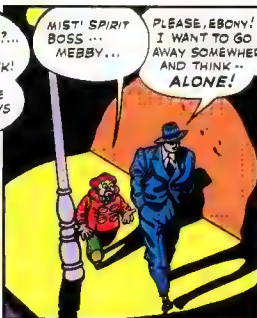


AND--SINCE HE CAME TO CALL ON ME, IT'S ONLY COMMON COURTESY THAT I STAY, TOO --DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES, I UNDERSTAND... GOOD EVENING, ELLEN!



FOR A LOOK
AT OUR RECORDS?...
IT CAN'T HAPPEN,
CUTHBERT! QUICK!
SHADOW HIM! ...
I'LL GET A CHANCE
TO PHONE THE BOYS
TO JOIN YOU!



PLEASE, EBONY!
I WANT TO GO
AWAY SOMEWHERE
AND THINK --
ALONE!



CONSIDRUT,
AIN'T IT? ...
SAVES DE HEARSE
FROM MAKIN' A
TRIP!



ME ...
OH ...
MY!



HEY,
YOU!

OH... HELLO,
MR. VAN GIMMICK!



LISTEN, SMART
GUY! I'LL GIVE
YOU JEST ONE
CHANCE TO FERGET
DAT YOU EVER EVEN
SUSPECTED ...

I STILL
HAVE THAT
FUNNY
FEELING
THAT I'VE
SEEN YOUR
PICTURE!



OKAY, IF YOU
WON'T LAY
OFF! C'MON.
MUGGS! ..
WORK ON
DIS GUY!

YOUR
PROFILE!..
I'VE SEEN A
PICTURE
OF THAT
GUY! ...
NOW I
KNOW!



THE GALLERY WHERE
I SAW YOUR PHOTO WAS
THE ROGUES' GALLERY
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS!
YOU'RE A CRIMINAL ..
AND WANTED!

YOU KIN TALK
IT OVER WIT'
ME TWO
JUNIOR
PARDNERS!
HERE DEY
COME!



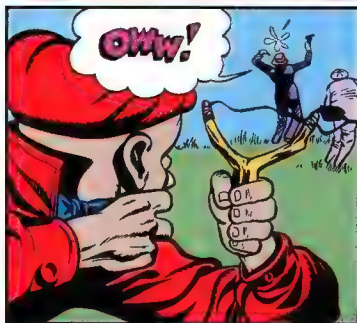
HEY! WHAT'S
THE IDEA
OF SOCKIN'
ME?

WHATCHA
TALKIN'
ABOUT?
I NEVER
TOUCHED
YUH!



NEVER TOUCHED
ME, HUH? WELL,
DON'T DO IT
AGAIN, OR ...

HURRY
UP, YOU
IDIOTS!
WE GOT
WORK
TO DO!



OWW!







THIS IS ALL A FRAME-UP!

NOTHING OF THE SORT! YOUR FORTUNE, WHICH YOU BOAST ABOUT, WAS MADE IN CRIME!



ELLEN! ... YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! ...

LEAVE HER OUT OF THIS! WHEN SHE SAID YOU MUST MAKE SOMETHING OF HERSELF, SHE DIDN'T MEAN A PUBLIC ENEMY!



BUT I DID IT FOR HER! SHE'S RESPONSIBLE! AND SHE'S GOING TO HELP ME GET AWAY!



YOU CAN'T SHOOT US BOTH! ... WHILE YOU PLUG ONE, THE OTHER WILL GET WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE!

DON'T TRY IT! THE FIRST MOVE ON THE PART OF EITHER OF YOU -- AND I'LL SHOOT ELLEN!



IF EITHER OF YOU TRIES TO FOLLOW, IT'LL BE TOO BAD! ELLEN AND I ARE GOING OUT OF THIS DOOR, AND ---



-- AWAY!!

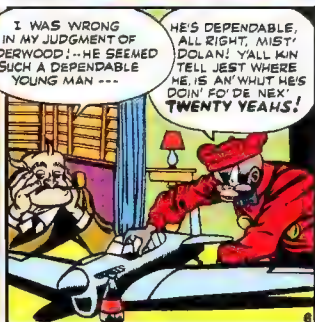
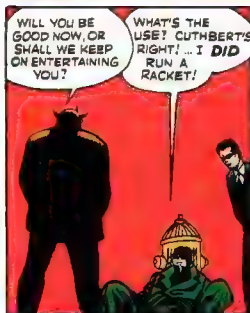
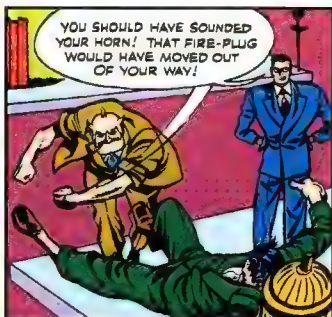


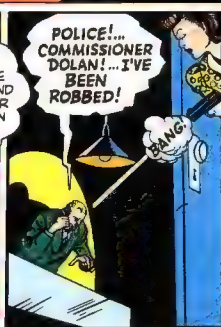
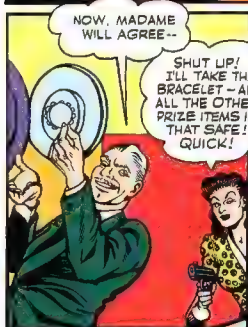
HE WENT DOWN -- NOW HE BOUNCES UP AGAIN!

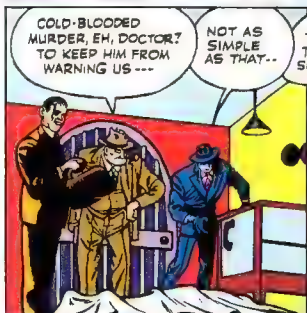
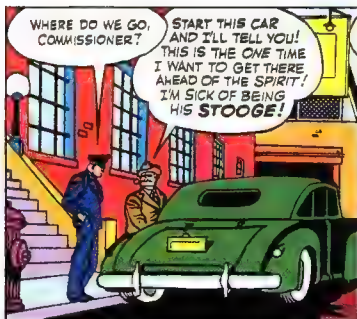


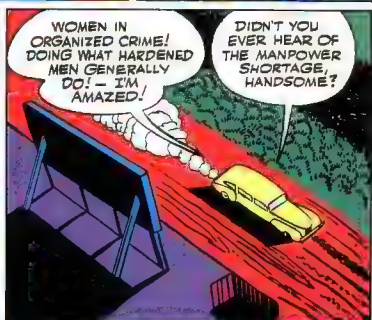
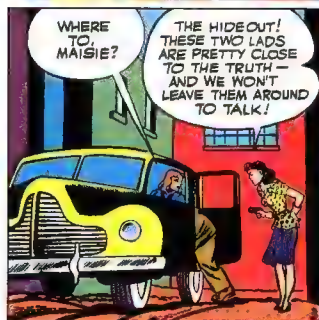
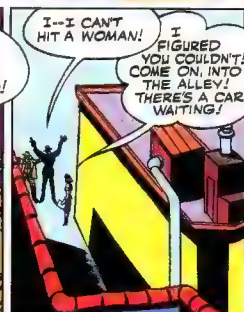
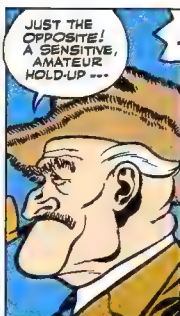
DERWOOD SEEMS TO BE AN EXPERT HIGH-DIVER!

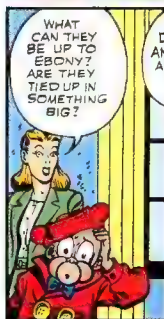
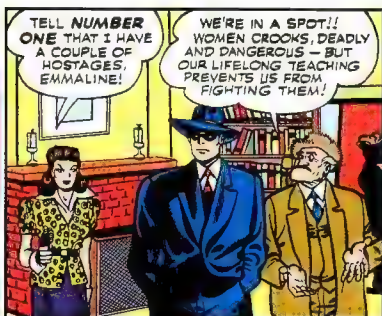
GOOD WORK, EBONY! WHEN I TELL YOU TO GUARD A DOOR, I KNOW IT WILL BE WELL GUARDED!



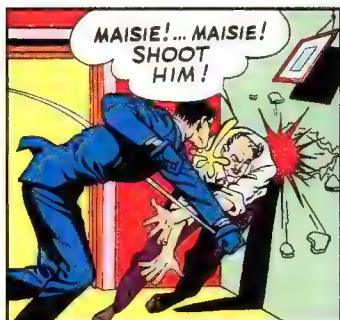




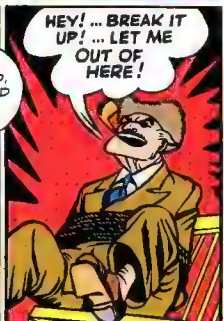
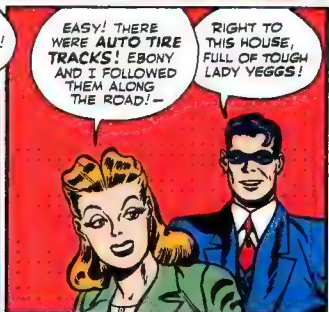
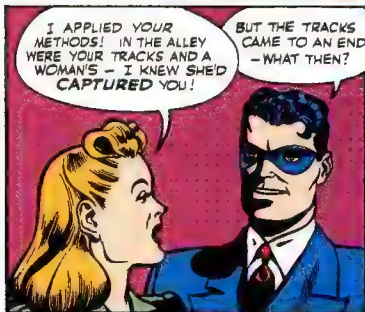
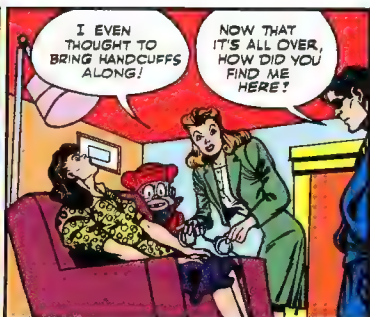












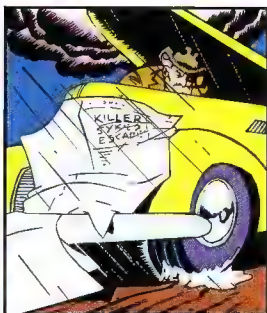
**COMIC
BOOK
SECTION**

KILLER SYKES

September 19, 1943

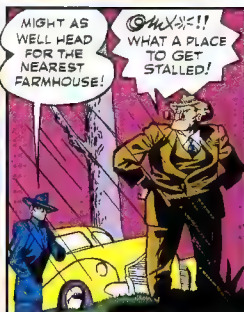
**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**





TRY IT
NOW,
SPIRIT!

SHE
WON'T
GO!



MIGHT AS
WELL HEAD
FOR THE
NEAREST
FARMHOUSE!

OH X!!
WHAT A PLACE
TO GET
STALLED!



COME ON,
EBONY!



LOOK
AT THIS,
SPIRIT!



WE TRAVEL FIVE
HUNDRED MILES, LOOKING
FOR HIM! AND THIS PAPER
HAS TO COME ALONG TO
RUB IT IN!



WE'LL LOOK FOR
TRIGGER SYKES TOMORROW!
---AFTER WE FIND A PLACE
TO STAY FOR
THE NIGHT!

AH'S SO WET
AH KIN FEEL
MAH BONES
SLOSHIN'
AROUND INSIDE
MAH SKIN!



OUR CAR'S STALLED ON THE ROAD NEAR HERE! CAN WE COME IN?

YOU'RE WELCOME, STRANGER!



MATILDY! BOIL SOME TEA FOR THE GENTLEMEN!

SURE IS A WET NIGHT!

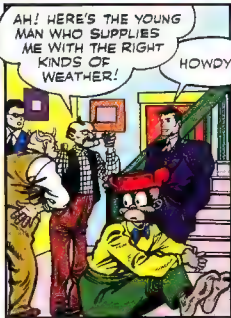


MEBBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE ORDERED SO MUCH RAIN! BUT I NEEDED IT FOR THE CROPS!

DID YOU SAY YOU ORDERED THE RAIN?



SURE DID! BUT I ORDERED THE RAIN TO STOP TOMORRY! WE'LL HAVE A RIGHT FINE DAY, I RECKON!



AH! HERE'S THE YOUNG MAN WHO SUPPLIES ME WITH THE RIGHT KINDS OF WEATHER!

HOWDY!



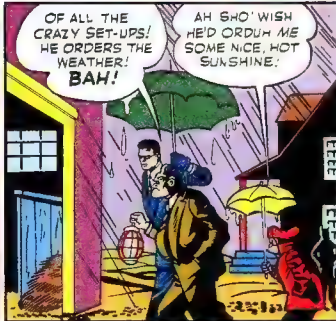
GLAD TO MEET YOU! MY NAME'S PAUL COLLINS!

JUST HOW DO YOU SUPPLY THE WEATHER? --IN BOTTLES?



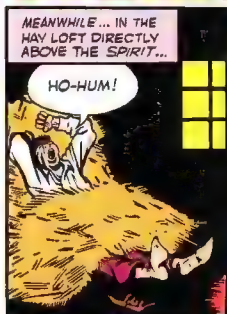
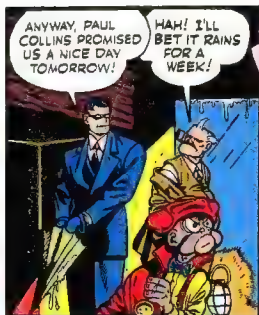
I CAN'T REVEAL PROFESSIONAL SECRETS!

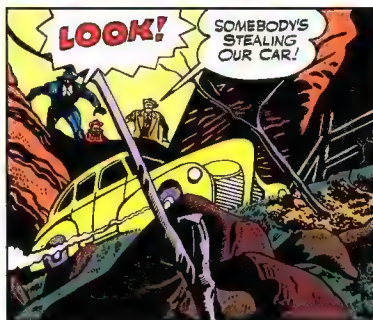
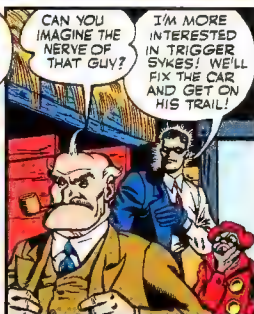
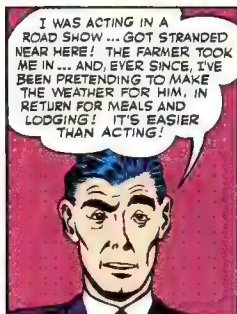
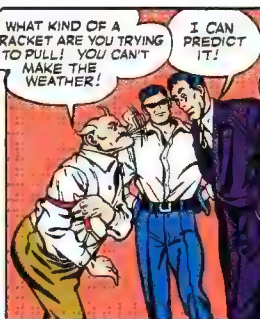
SURE HE CAN'T! ... I RECKON YOU FOLKS CAN STAY IN THE BARN FER TONIGHT! IT'S WARM AND DRY OUT THERE!

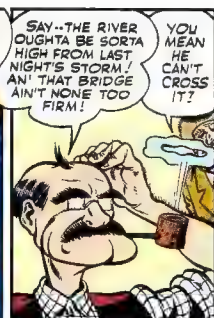


OF ALL THE CRAZY SET-UPS! HE ORDERS THE WEATHER! BAH!

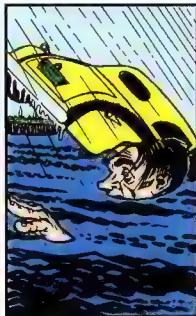
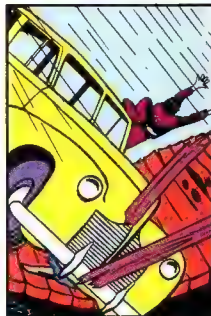
AH SHO' WISH HE'D ORDUH ME SOME NICE, HOT SUNSHINE!

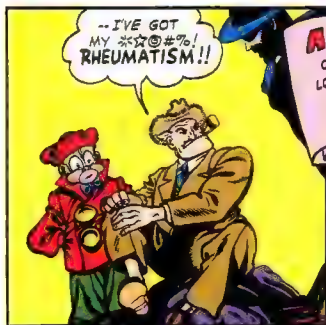
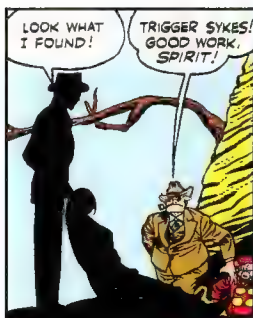






RAIN!!
EBONY, I NEVER FELT BETTER IN MY LIFE!





**COMIC
BOOK
SECTION**

MURDER ON THE JOB

September 26, 1943

**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**





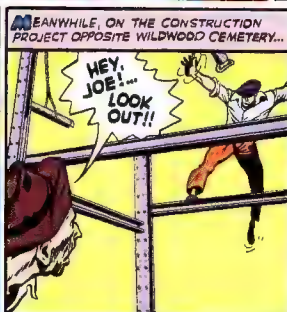
AH'S GOT TO PUHFECK MAH SENSE OF BALANCE!



LAST WEEK YOU WERE GOING TO BE A FIREMAN!

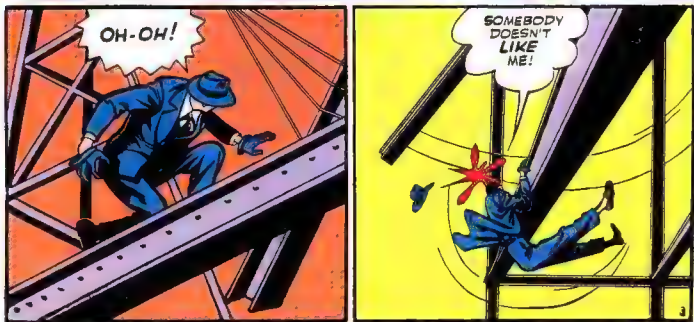
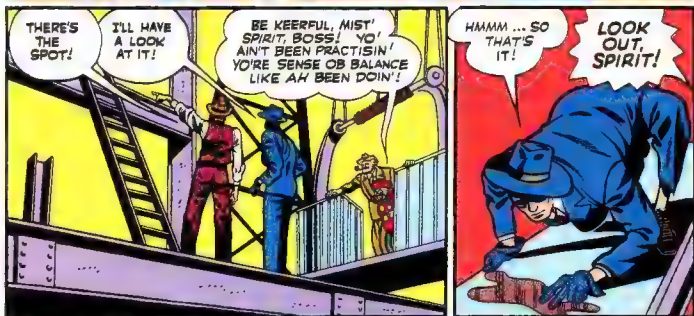
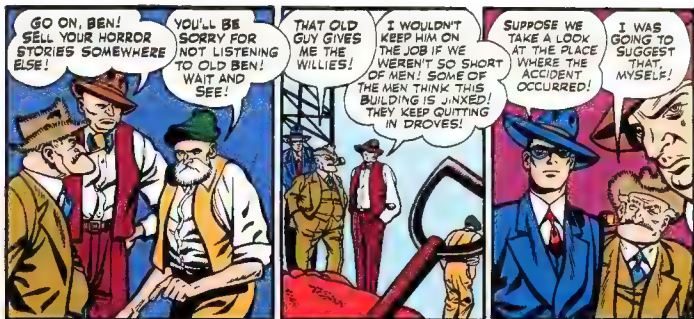


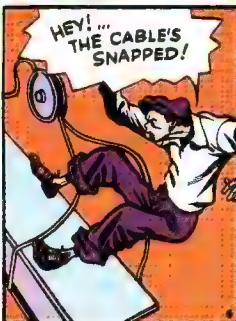
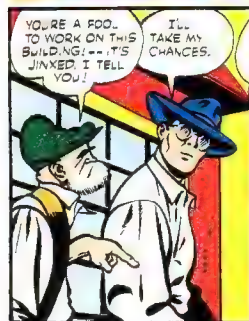
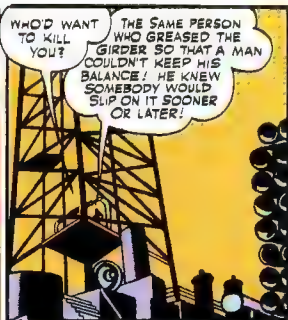
HEAH AH IS, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!



I DUNNO! MAYBE SOMEBODY DROPPED A RIVET TOO CLOSE TO HIS HEAD AND HE LOST HIS FOOTING!









GOOD GRIEF!

I TOLD YOU SO! YOU'D BETTER QUIT THIS JOB WHILE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!



THAT NIGHT, AN INQUISITIVE FLASHLIGHT MOVES ALONG THE STEEL RIBS OF THE SKELETON BUILDING

WHUT YO' ALL LOOKIN' FO, 'MIST' SPIRIT BOSS?

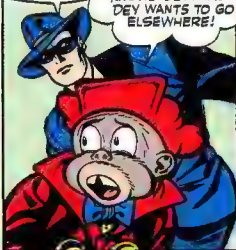


I FOUND IT!... THE CABLE THAT SNAPPED, THIS AFTERNOON!



M-MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! DOES YO' HEAR WHUT AH IS HEARING?

SOUNDS LIKE DIGGING! COME ON, EBONY!



Y-YASSUH! AH'S COMIN'-- BUT MAH FEET KNOWS BETTER! DEY WANTS TO GO ELSEWHERE!

HELLO!... HAVE YOU STRUCK OIL?



UNFRIENDLY CHAP, ISN'T HE? WHAT'S THAT CLICKING NOISE?

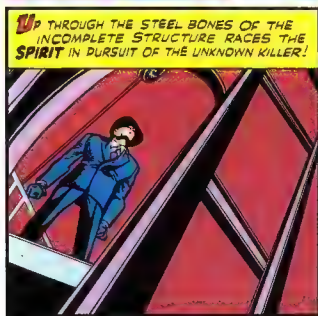
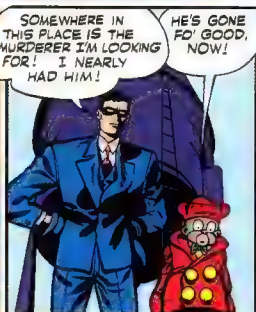
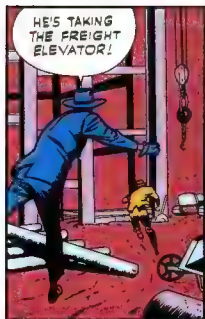
DAT'S MAH TEETH!

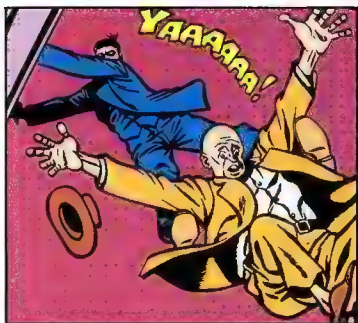
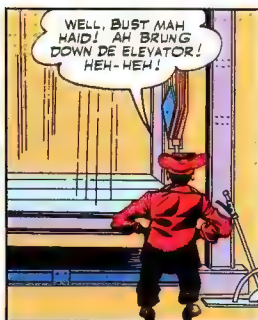


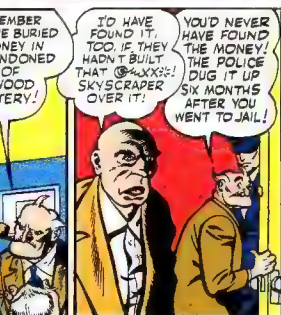
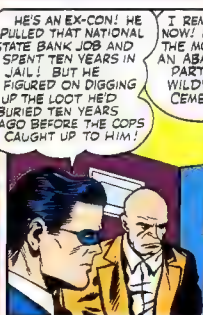
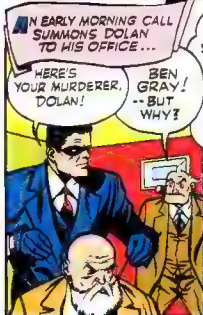
STAY HERE, EBONY!

AH DON' NEED NO PERSUADIN'!





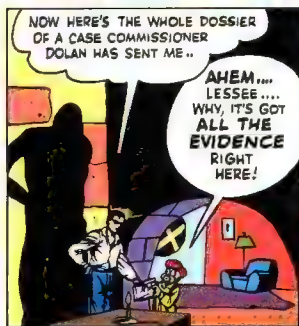
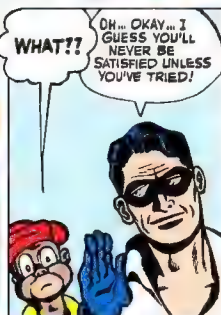


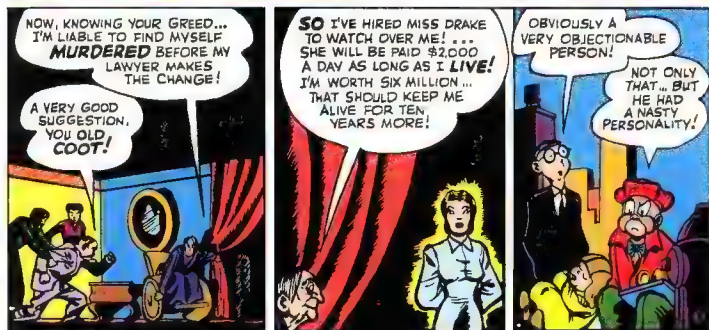
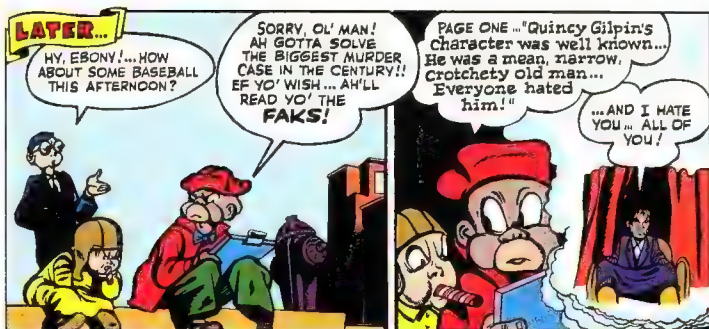


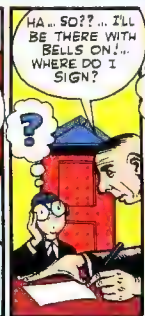
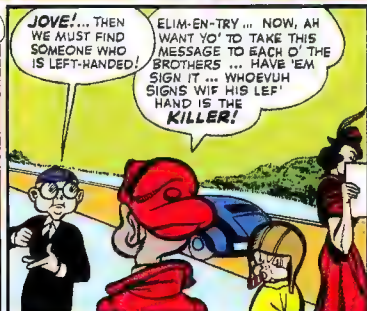
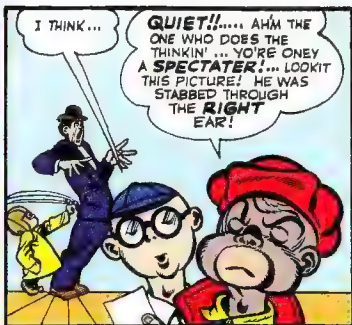
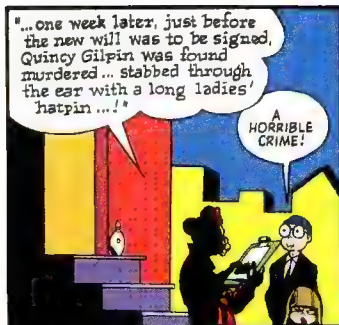
**THE CASE OF THE SOUTHPAW
MAIDEN**

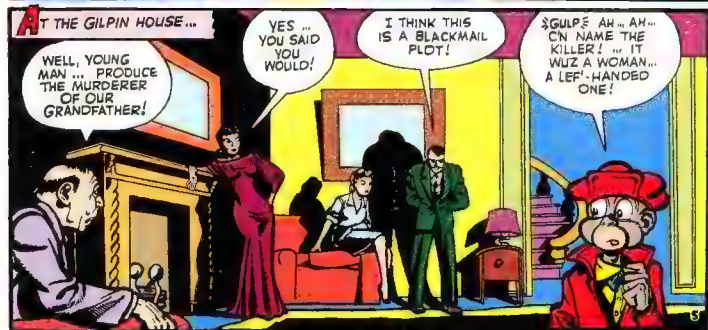
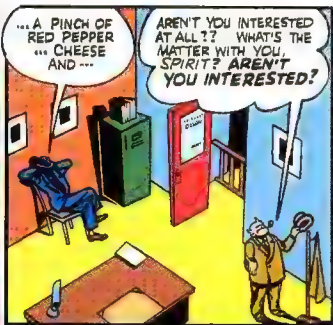
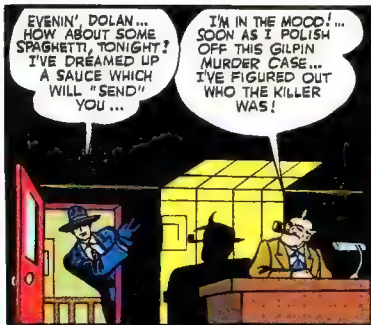
October 3, 1943

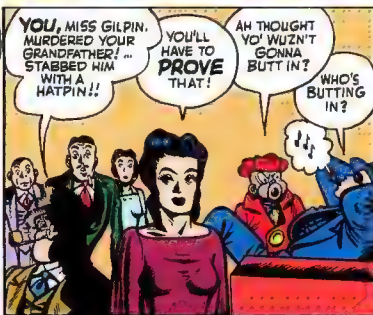


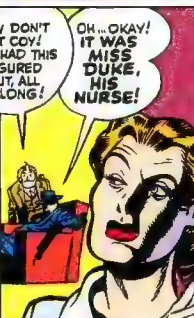


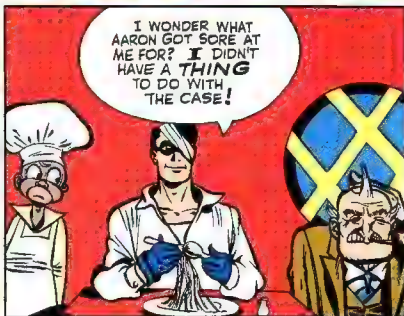










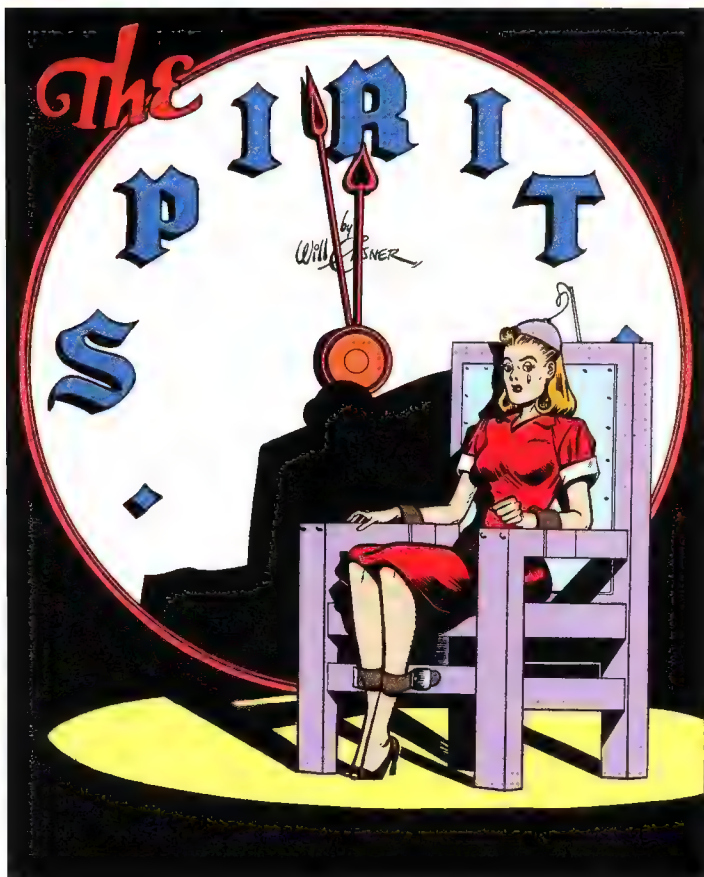


**COMIC
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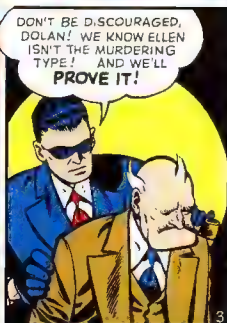
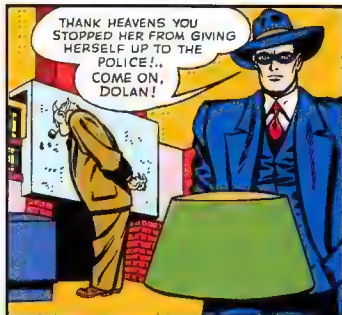
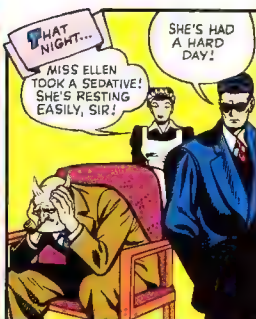
ELLEN DOLAN, MURDERESS

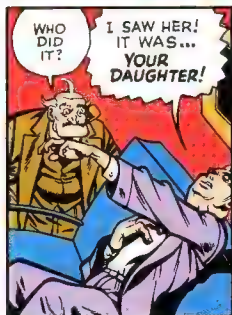
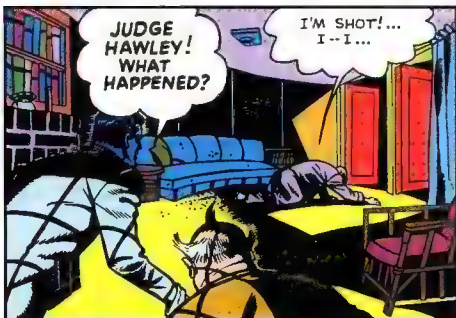
OCTOBER 10, 1943

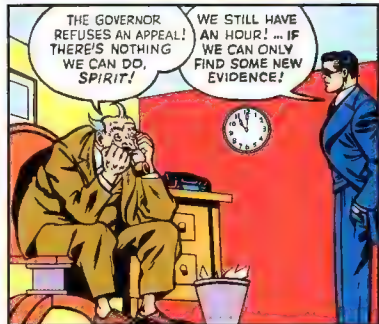
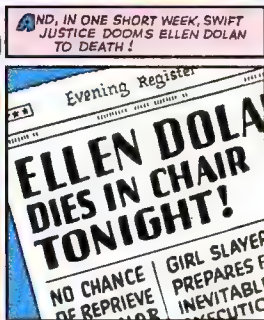
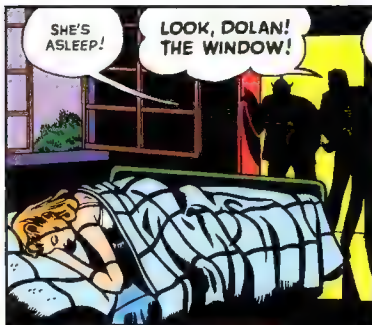
**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**





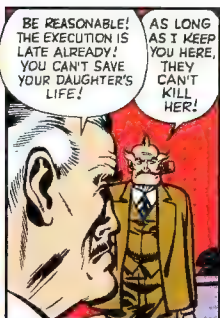
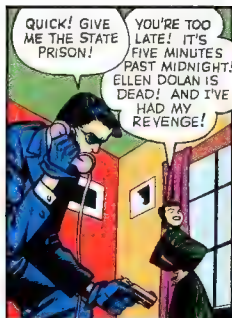












THE MAGIC DRUMS OF THE
SHONOKINS

October 17, 1943

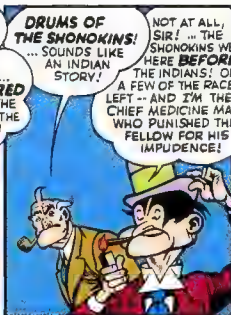




THIS POOR CHAP! ... HE SEEMS TO BE DEAD!

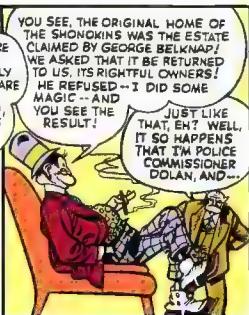
AH, YES! I FOLLOWED HIM AS HE RAN IN HERE, TO MAKE SURE! YOU SEE...

HE WAS **THUNDERED TO DEATH**... BY THE MAGIC DRUMS OF THE **SHONOKINS!**



DRUMS OF THE SHONOKINS! ... SOUNDS LIKE AN INDIAN STORY!

NOT AT ALL, SIR! ... THE SHONOKINS WERE HERE **BEFORE** THE INDIANS! ONLY A FEW OF THE RACE ARE LEFT -- AND I'M THE CHIEF MEDICINE MAN, WHO PUNISHED THIS FELLOW FOR HIS IMPUDENCE!

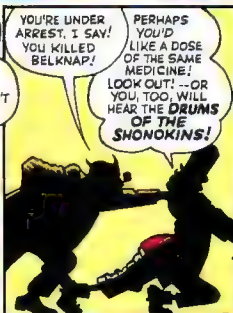


JUST LIKE THAT, EH? WELL, IT SO HAPPENS THAT I'M POLICE COMMISSIONER DOLAN, AND...



IF BELKNAP IS DEAD, AND YOU ADMIT KILLING HIM, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR MURDER!

WON'T IT BE RATHER HARD TO PROVE ANYTHING AGAINST ME, MR. DOLAN? ... MOST COURTS DON'T BELIEVE IN MAGIC, YOU KNOW!



YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, I SAY! YOU KILLED BELKNAP!

PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE A DOSE OF THE SAME MEDICINE! LOOK OUT! --OR YOU, TOO, WILL HEAR THE **DRUMS OF THE SHONOKINS!**



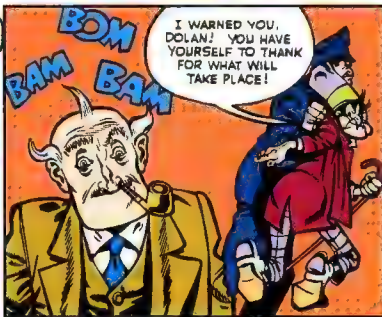
DRUMS! LOUDER -- LOUDER -- UNTIL THEIR THUNDER STRIKES YOU DEAD!

TWEETEE



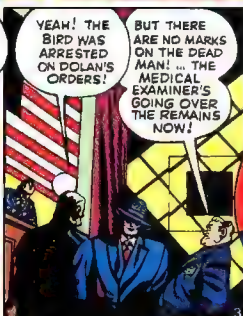
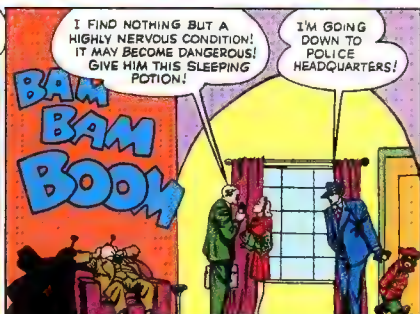
YOU SEE, I MAKE POWERFUL NOISES, TOO! TAKE HIM TO THE STATION, MCGOUGH!

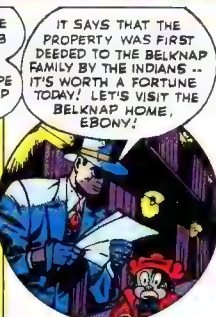
C'MON, YOU!



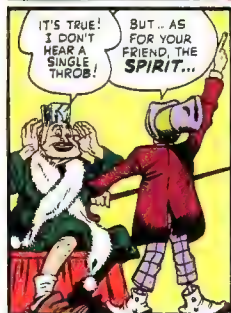
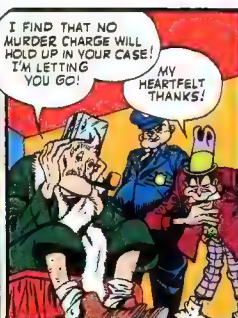
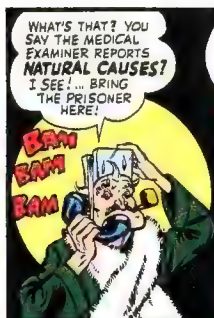
I WARNED YOU, DOLAN! YOU HAVE YOURSELF TO THANK FOR WHAT WILL TAKE PLACE!

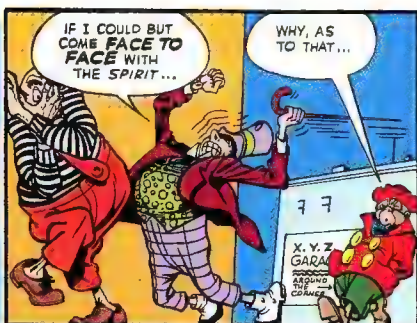
BOM BAM BAM

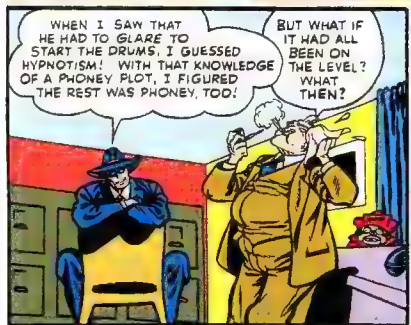
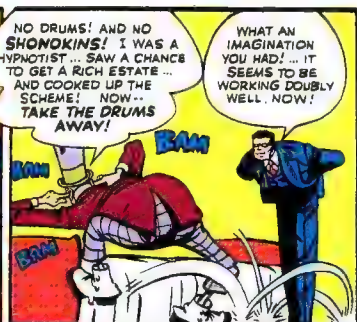
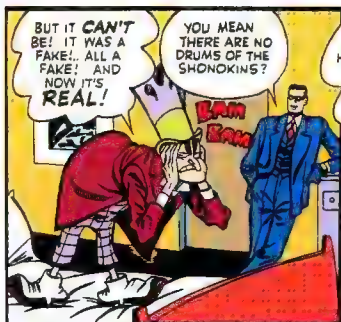












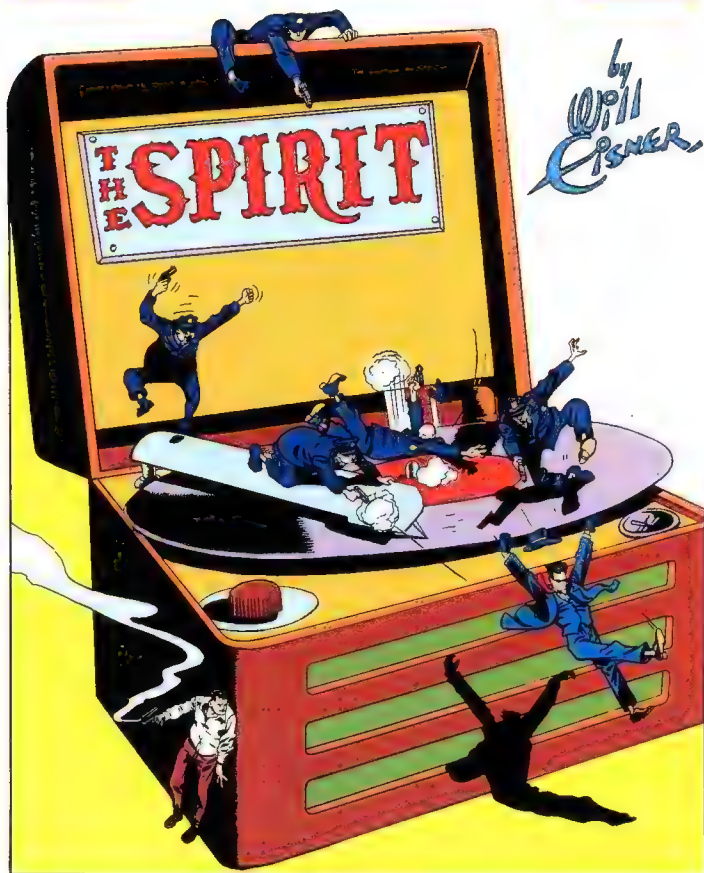
**COMIC
BOOK
SECTION**

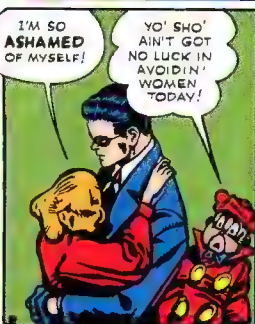
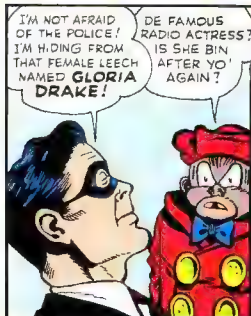
WHO KILLED GLORIA DRAKE

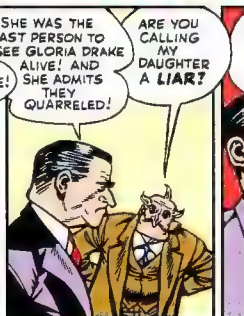
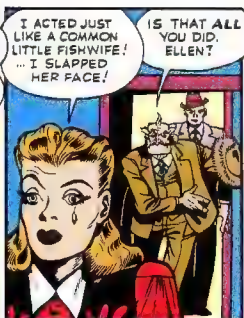
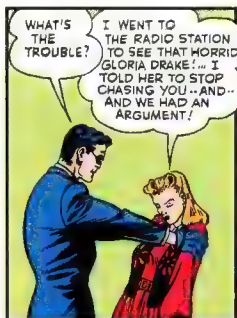
October 24, 1943

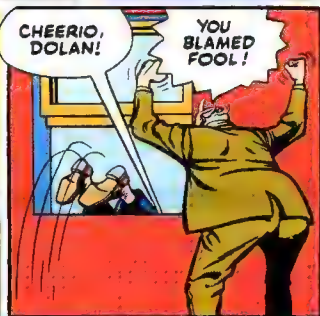
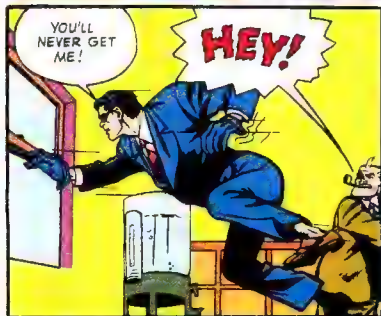
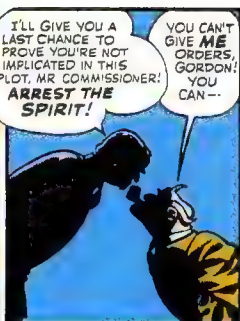
**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**

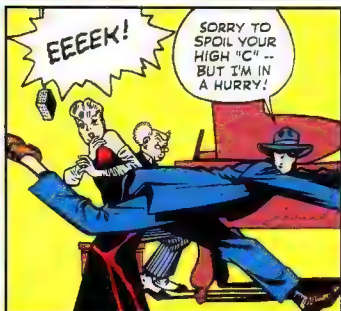
by
*WILL
EISNER*



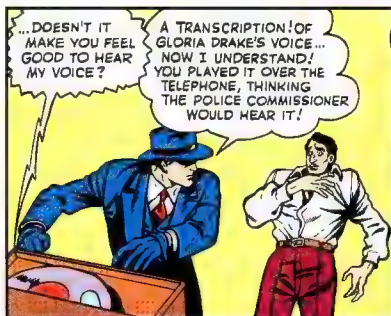


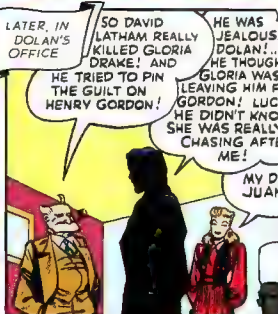
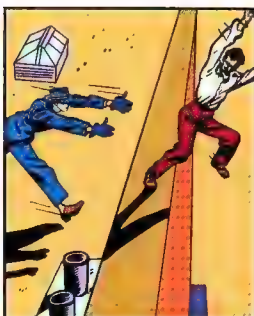












**COMIC
BOOK
SECTION**

DEATH IN THE LION CAGE

October 31, 1943

**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**





Fantastic, you say? The **SPRIT** isn't in character? The whole episode is absurd? ...

WELL,
We have it on the
VERY BEST of
Authority!

This little scene is even **NOW** running through the fertile brain of one of its principal characters!

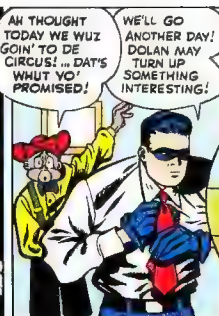
➔





YO' WUZ STRUNG
UP ON DAT WIRE,
HOLLERIN' FER
HELP AN' ...

GET DRESSED!
WE'RE GOING
TO VISIT
COMMISSIONER
DOLAN!



AH THOUGHT
TODAY WE WUZ
GOIN' TO DE
CIRCUS! ... DAT'S
WHUT YO'
PROMISED!

WE'LL GO
ANOTHER DAY!
DOLAN MAY
TURN UP
SOMETHING
INTERESTING!



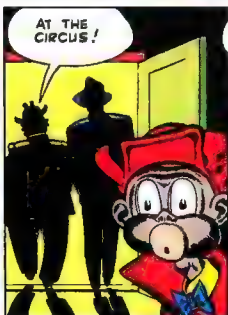
IN COMMISSIONER
DOLAN'S OFFICE ...

IS HE DEAD?
ALL RIGHT! I'LL
BE RIGHT
OVER!



SPIRIT! YOU'RE
JUST IN TIME! YOU
CAN COME ALONG
TO SEE A
DEAD MAN!

YOU SOUND
GRUESOME!
WHERE'S THE
VICTIM?

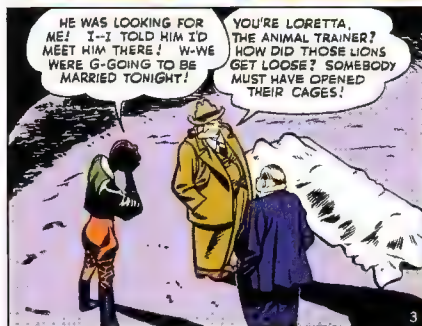


AT THE
CIRCUS!



THEY FOUND HIM
IN THE LION'S
ARENA! ... HE'D
BEEN BADLY
MAULED BY
THE LIONS!

WHAT
WAS HE
DOING
THERET



HE WAS LOOKING FOR
ME! I-I TOLD HIM I'D
MEET HIM THERE! W-WE
WERE G-GOING TO BE
MARRIED TONIGHT!

YOU'RE LORETTA,
THE ANIMAL TRAINER?
HOW DID THOSE LIONS
GET LOOSE? SOMEBODY
MUST HAVE OPENED
THEIR CAGES!



MY ASSISTANT CAN
TELL YOU! HE -- HE WAS
NEAR THE CAGES WHEN
IT HAPPENED!



THAT'S WHERE HE WAS KILLED, SPIRIT!

HE WAS MURDERED, DOLAN!



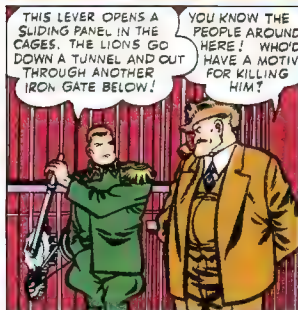
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

NO MAN WALKS INTO AN ARENA FULL OF HUNGRY LIONS! ... EITHER HE THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE OR SOMEBODY FORCED HIM TO GO IN! WE'LL KNOW MORE WHEN WE TALK TO THE ASSISTANT TRAINER!



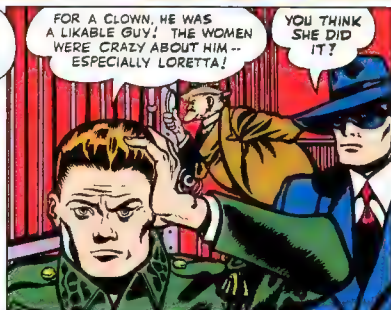
I WASN'T NEAR THE CAGES WHEN IT HAPPENED! I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED!... HONEST!

HOW DO THE LIONS GET FROM HERE TO THE ARENA?



THIS LEVER OPENS A SLIDING PANEL IN THE CAGES. THE LIONS GO DOWN A TUNNEL AND OUT THROUGH ANOTHER IRON GATE BELOW!

YOU KNOW THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE! WHO'D HAVE A MOTIVE FOR KILLING HIM?



FOR A CLOWN, HE WAS A LIKABLE GUY! THE WOMEN WERE CRAZY ABOUT HIM -- ESPECIALLY LORETTA!

YOU THINK SHE DID IT?



SHE LOVED THE GUY! THEY WERE GONNA BE MARRIED! BUT GRENZAR, THE TRAPEZE ARTIST, HE LIKED LORETTA, TOO!

JEALOUSY!... SHE'S GOING TO MARRY THE CLOWN, SO THIS GRENZAR BUMPS OFF THE CLOWN!

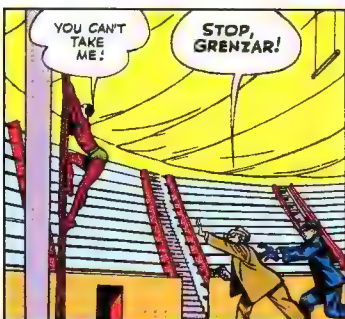


WE'VE GOT OUR MAN, SPIRIT! LET'S FIND GRENZAR!



THAT'S GRENZAR OVER THERE!

THANKS!





LOOK
OUT!



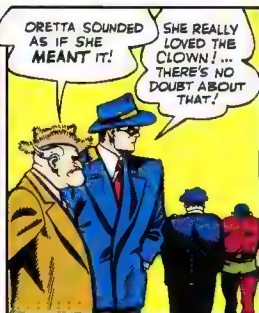
HERE
WE GO!



WHEW! A LITTLE
TO ONE SIDE,
AND THEY'D BE
SCRAPING ME
UP WITH A
SPOON!

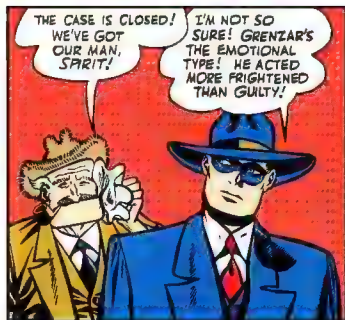


YOU KILLED HIM!
I HOPE THEY TEAR
OUT YOUR HEART
AND THROW IT
TO THE DOGS!



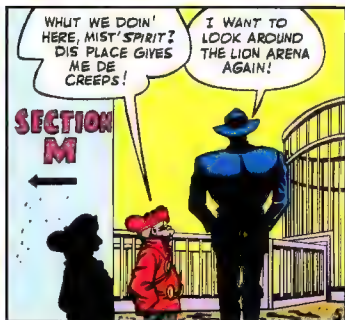
ORETTA SOUNDED
AS IF SHE
MEANT IT!

SHE REALLY
LOVED THE
CLOWN! ...
THERE'S NO
DOUBT ABOUT
THAT!



THE CASE IS CLOSED!
WE'VE GOT
OUR MAN,
SPIRIT!

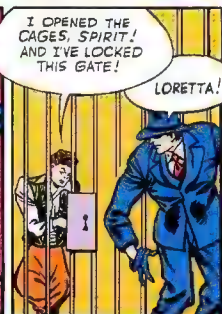
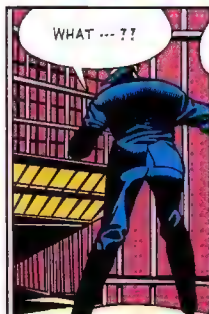
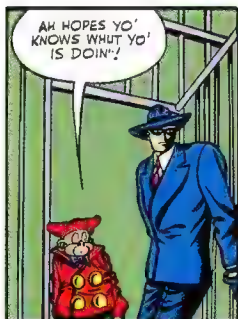
I'M NOT SO
SURE! GRENZAR'S
THE EMOTIONAL
TYPE! HE ACTED
MORE FRIGHTENED
THAN GUILTY!



WHUT WE DOIN'
HERE, MIST' SPIRIT?
DIS PLACE GIVES
ME DE CREEPS!

I WANT TO
LOOK AROUND
THE LION ARENA
AGAIN!

SECTION
M





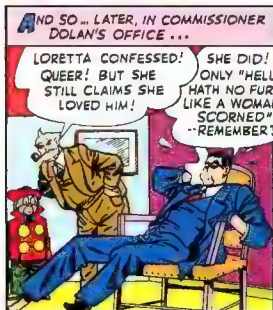
FAREWELL, SPIRIT!
YOU'LL NOT BE ABLE
TO HOLD THEM OFF
--FOR VERY LONG!



I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!
YOUR GAME IS PLAYED
OUT, LORETTA!



HEY, DOLAN! GET ME
OUT OF HERE BEFORE
SHE'S CHARGED
WITH ANOTHER
MURDER!



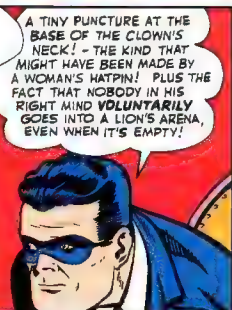
AND SO... LATER, IN COMMISSIONER
DOLAN'S OFFICE ...

LORETTA CONFESSED!
QUEER! BUT SHE
STILL CLAIMS SHE
LOVED HIM!

SHE DID!
ONLY "HELL
HATH NO FURY
LIKE A WOMAN
SCORNE"! --REMEMBER?



HOW'D YOU
GUESS IT WAS
LORETTA?



A TINY PUNCTURE AT THE
BASE OF THE CLOWN'S
NECK! - THE KIND THAT
MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE BY
A WOMAN'S HATPIN! PLUS THE
FACT THAT NOBODY IN HIS
RIGHT MIND **VOLUNTARILY**
GOES INTO A LION'S ARENA,
EVEN WHEN IT'S EMPTY!



NO ONE
IN HIS
RIGHT
MIND,
EH?

WELL, THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS!...
I FOUND THE HATPIN IN HER
HANDBAG! BUT I THOUGHT SHE
MIGHT BE TOO EXCITED TO
REMEMBER THAT SHE HADN'T
DROPPED IT IN THE ARENA! SO
I PRETENDED TO FIND IT
THERE -- AND SHE
BETRAYED HERSELF!

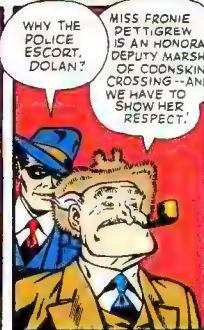


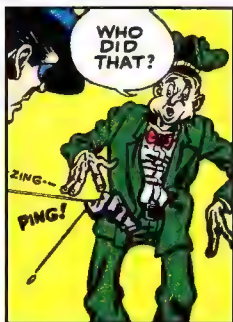
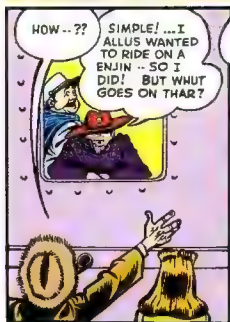
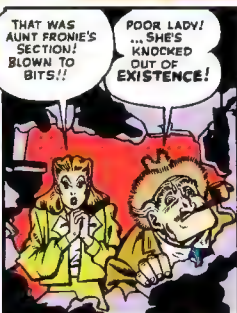
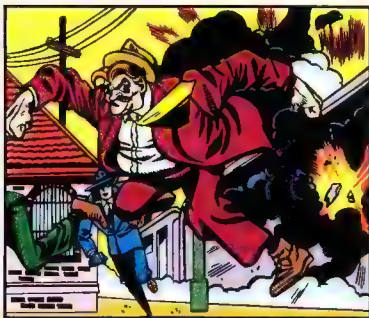
THIS IS THE
LAST DAY OF
THE CIRCUS.
EBONY! DO
YOU WANT
TO GO?

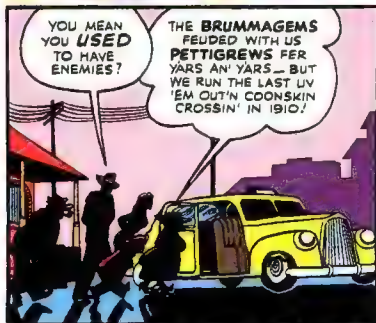
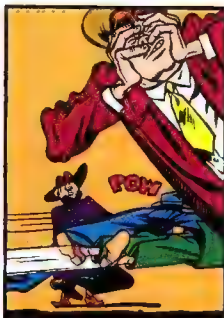
AH
AIN'T
INT'RESTED!

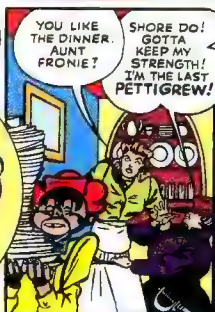


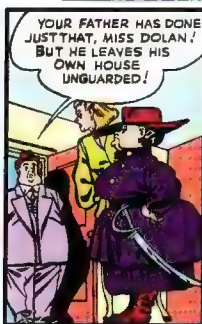
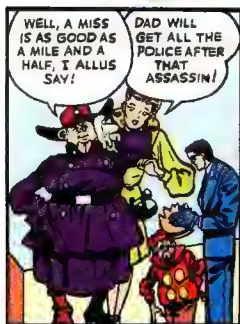
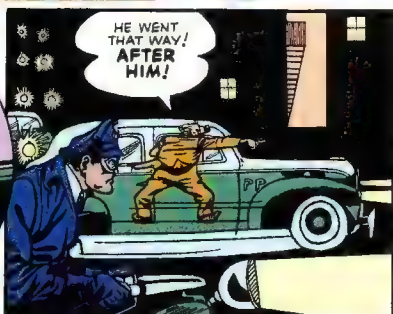
AH ALREADY'S
SEEN DE MOST
PRINCIPAL PARTS!
AH DON' WANTA
GO THROUGH ALL
DAT AGAIN!

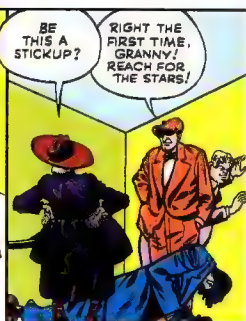




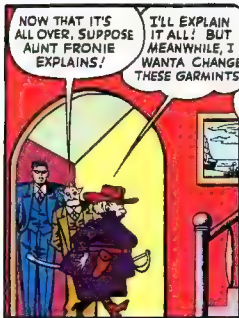




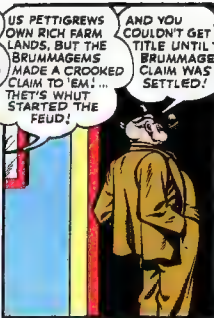




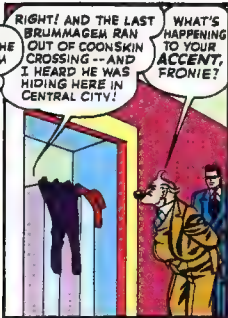




I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL! BUT MEANWHILE, I WANTA CHANGE THESE GARMINTS!



AND YOU COULDN'T GET TITLE UNTIL THE BRUMMAGEM CLAIM WAS SETTLED!



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOUR ACCENT, FRONIE?



SEE, DOLAN? IT WORKED OUT FINE, TOO! BRUMMAGEM'S A CRIMINAL AND FORFEITS HIS CLAIM!



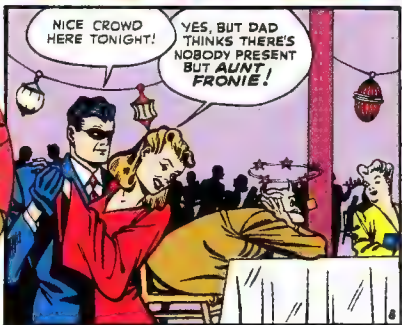
YES, AND BRUMMAGEM BIT!



WHY, SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!!



WHATEVER YOU SAY FRONIE -- DEAR!



YES, BUT DAD THINKS THERE'S NOBODY PRESENT BUT AUNT FRONIE!

COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

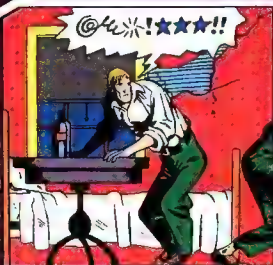
VANCE McVANE

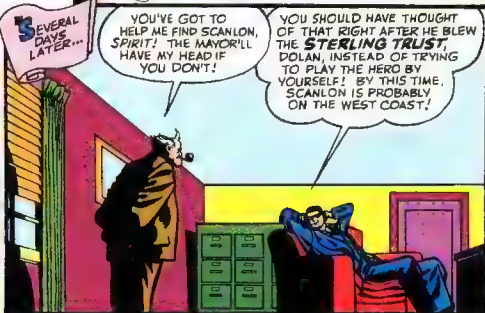
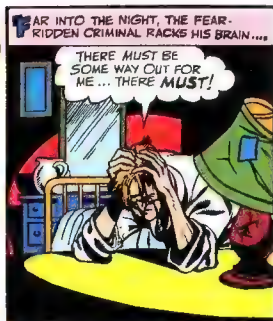
November 14, 1943

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

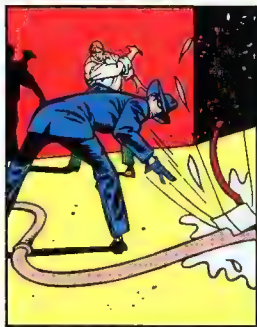
The SPIRIT

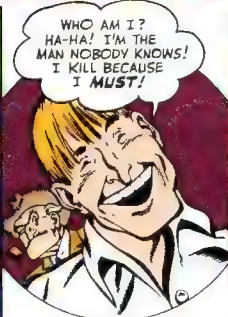
by
Cecil G. Sayer

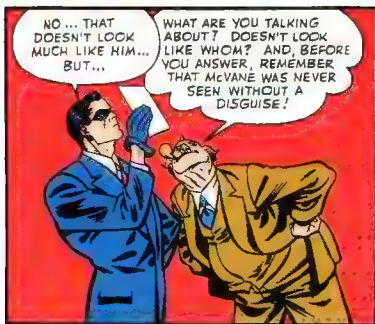


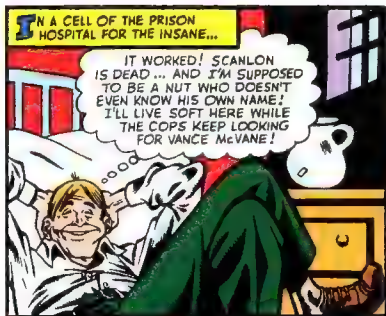


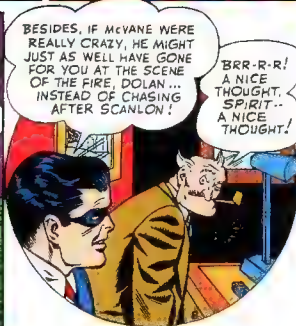
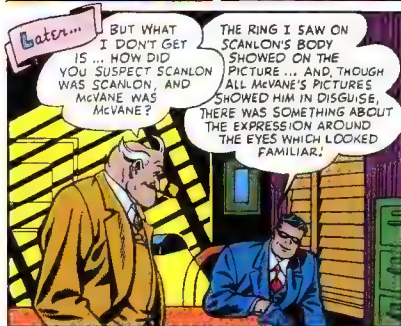


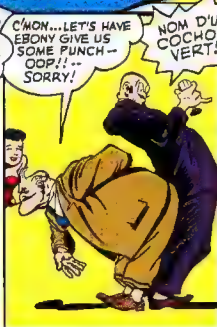
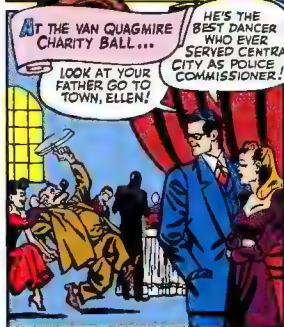












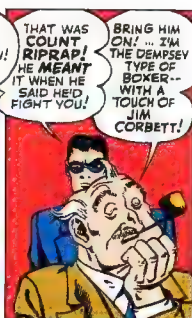


CLUMSY, HUH?
HOW'S **THIS** FOR
CLUMSINESS?



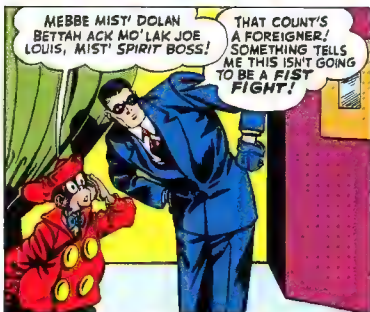
I AM INSULT! YOU
SHALL **FIGHT ME FOR
ZIS!** TOMORROW--
AT **PARAPET PARK!**

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO WAIT
TILL TOMORROW!
JUST **START**
SOMETHING!



THAT WAS
**COUNT
RIPRAP!**
HE **MEANT**
IT WHEN HE
SAID HE'D
FIGHT YOU!

BRING HIM
ON! ... I'M
THE **DEMPESEY**
TYPE OF
BOXER--
WITH A
TOUCH OF
**JIM
CORBETT!**



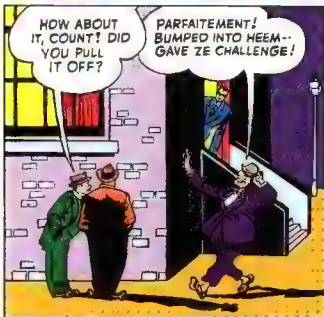
MEBBE MIST' **DOLAN**
BETTAN ACK MO' LAK **JOE**
LOUIS, MIST' **SPIRIT BOSS!**

THAT **COUNT'S**
A **FOREIGNER!**
SOMETHING TELLS
ME THIS ISN'T GOING
TO BE A **FIST
FIGHT!**



DIDN'T **COUNT**
RIPRAP PASS
THIS WAY?

YES, SIR!
HE JUST
NOW LEFT
THE PARTY!



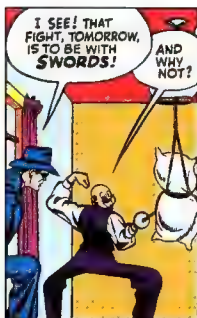
HOW ABOUT
IT, **COUNT?** DID
YOU PULL
IT OFF?

PARFAITEMENT!
BUMPED INTO HEEM--
GAVE ZE CHALLENGE!



HEAR THAT, CHUM?
THIS TIME TOMORROW,
DOLAN WILL BE
FINISHED!

AND MAYBE THE
NEXT COMMISSIONER
WON'T BE SO
TOUGH ON THE
RACKETS, HUH?



I SEE! THAT FIGHT, TOMORROW, IS TO BE WITH **SWORDS!**

AND WHY NOT?

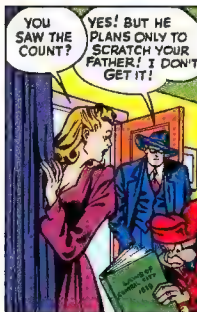


I AM ZE INSULT PARTY! DUELLING CUSTOM ALLOW ME TO CHOOSE ZE WEAPON!

DOLAN KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT SWORDS! YOU'LL **MURDER HIM!**



VENTRE SAINT GRIS! NO SUCH ZING! -- I ONLY DRAW ZE BLOOD FROM HEES HAND! YOU INSULT ME ALSO! GET OUT, OR I CALL ZE GENDARME!



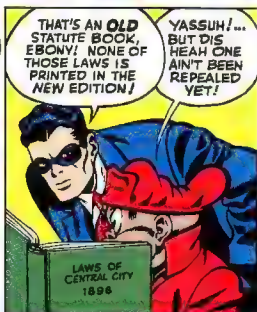
YOU SAW THE COUNT?

YES! BUT HE PLANS ONLY TO SCRATCH YOUR FATHER! I DON'T GET IT!



WHY SHOULD THOSE THUGS PLOT JUST A SCRATCH FOR HIM? AND THEY SAID HE'D BE **FINISHED!**

LOOKY HYAH, FOLKS!



THAT'S AN **OLD** STATUTE BOOK, EBONY! NONE OF THOSE LAWS IS PRINTED IN THE NEW EDITION!

YASSUH!... BUT DIS HEAH ONE AIN'T BEEN REPEALED YET!



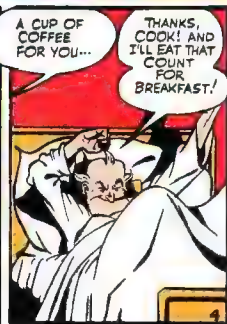
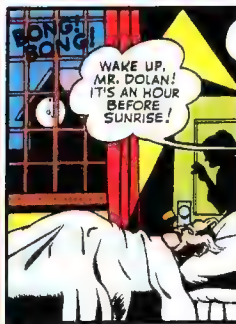
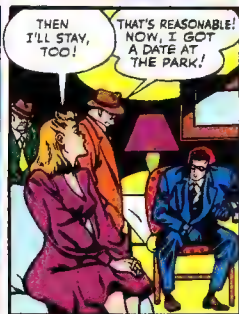
SAYS HYAH -- "ANYBODY WHO FIGHTS A DUEL GOES TO JAIL! NOBODY FIGHTIN' A DUEL KIN HOLD ANY PUBLIC OFFICE!"

I GET IT!



THEY'LL GET DOLAN MIXED UP IN THIS THING, THEN HAVE HIM REMOVED FROM OFFICE! **QUICK!...** CALL HIM ON THE PHONE ---

WAIT!





OFF TO THE WARS, COOK!

I HAVE RATION STAMPS ENOUGH FOR SOME RAW STEAK, IF YOU FORGET TO DUCK!



THE SPIRIT OUGHT TO BE HERE, TO SEE A REAL BATTLER AT WORK! WONDER WHERE HE IS!



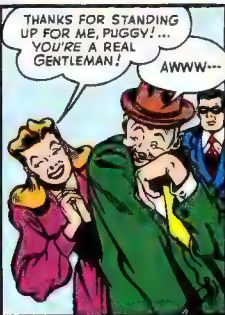
ALMOST DOWN!

IF YOU WERE A REAL HELP, SPIRIT, YOU'D FIND ME A CUP OF COFFEE!



SORRY, ELLEN! I'M ONLY THE SPIRIT --NOT MR. MYSTIC!

HEY! DAT AIN'T NO WAY TO TALK TO A GOOD-LOOKIN' GOIL!



THANKS FOR STANDING UP FOR ME, PUGGY! ... YOU'RE A REAL GENTLEMAN!

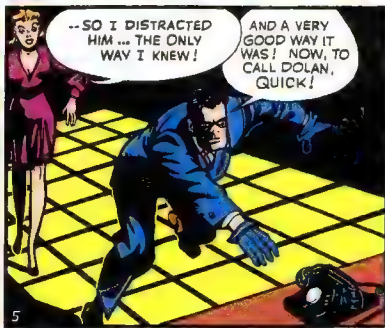
AWWW---



I BET YOU TELL DAT TO ALL DE BOYS!

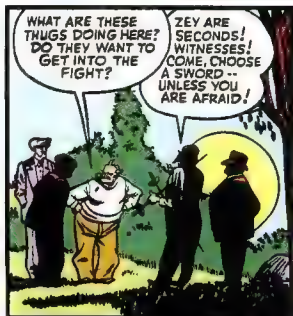
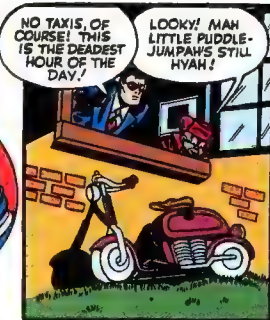


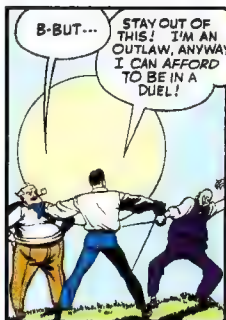
OH, SPIRIT! ... I KNEW THAT YOU NEEDED ONLY A MOMENT---



--SO I DISTRACTED HIM ... THE ONLY WAY I KNEW!

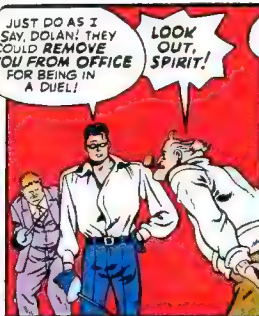
AND A VERY GOOD WAY IT WAS! NOW, TO CALL DOLAN, QUICK!







RIGHT THROUGH THERE! FIGHTING A DUEL! ... THERE'S A LAW AGAINST IT!



JUST DO AS I SAY, DOLAN! THEY COULD REMOVE YOU FROM OFFICE FOR BEING IN A DUEL!

LOOK OUT, SPIRIT!

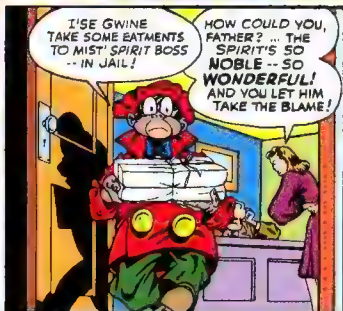


THERE THEY ARE -- FIGHTING WITH SWORDS!

BUT DOLAN'S HERE! HE'S TAKING CHARGE!



Y-YES! ... HERE'S THE MAN WHO STARTED IT! TAKE HIM TO JAIL! I'M GOING HOME!



I'VE GWINE TAKE SOME EATMENTS TO MIST' SPIRIT BOSS -- IN JAIL!

HOW COULD YOU, FATHER? ... THE SPIRIT'S SO NOBLE -- SO WONDERFUL! AND YOU LET HIM TAKE THE BLAME!



HE DID IT ALL TO KEEP YOU FROM LOSING YOUR JOB!

SAY NO MORE! I'LL LET HIM OUT, AND ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITY!



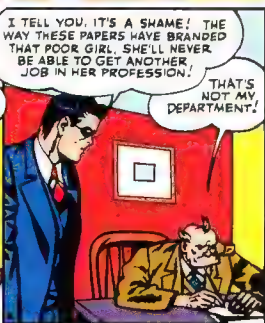
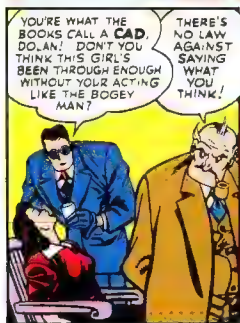
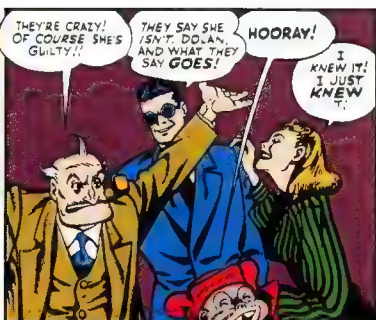
OKAY, SPIRIT! YOU CAN GO! AND I'M AWFULLY SORRY!

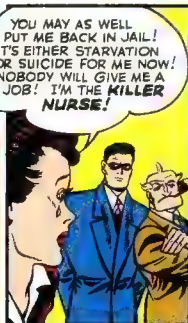
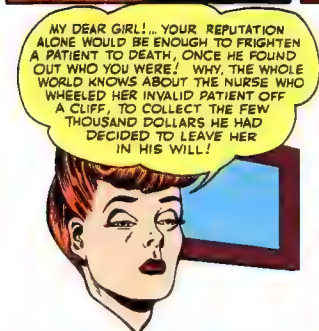
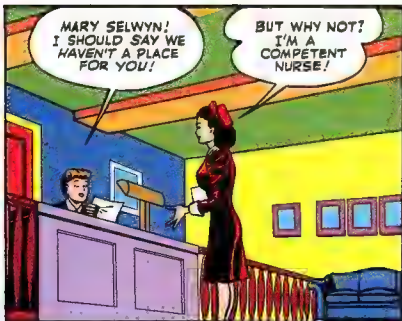


DARN THAT EBONY!

See you later...
The Spirit

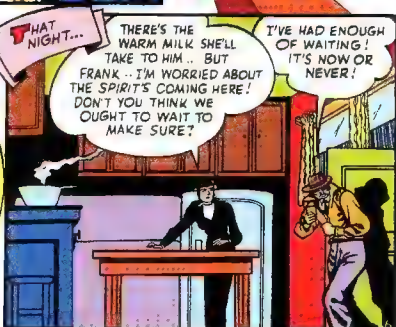
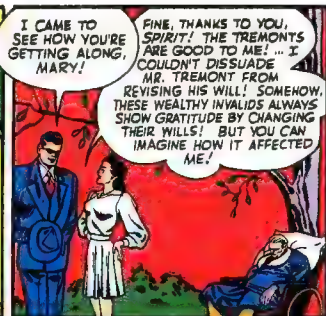


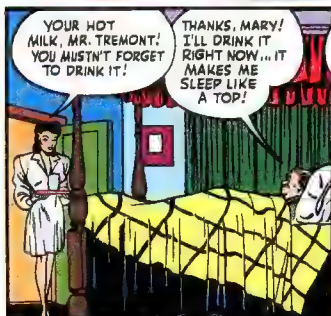










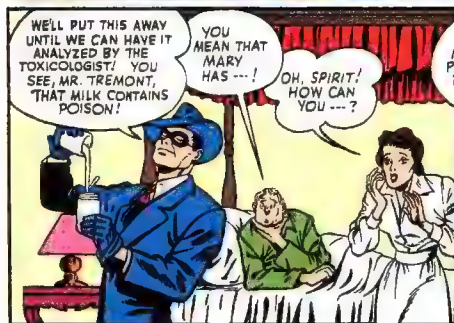


THANKS, MARY! I'LL DRINK IT RIGHT NOW... IT MAKES ME SLEEP LIKE A TOP!



THE SPIRIT!

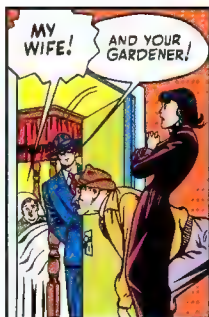
WHAT IN THE NAME OF THUNDER -- ?



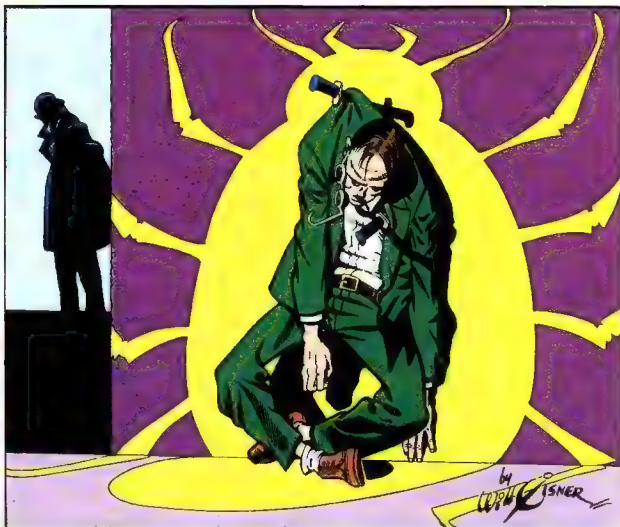
YOU MEAN THAT MARY HAS --- !

OH, SPIRIT! HOW CAN YOU --- ?





**THE
SPIRIT**



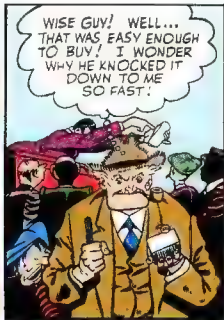
AND HERE WE HAVE A FOUNTAIN
PEN ... ALONE WORTH TEN DOLLARS
... BUT TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER WE
ALSO OFFER THIS PACKAGE! ...
WHAT'S IN THE PACKAGE???
... THAT'S THE SURPRISE!
WHAT AM I BID? ...

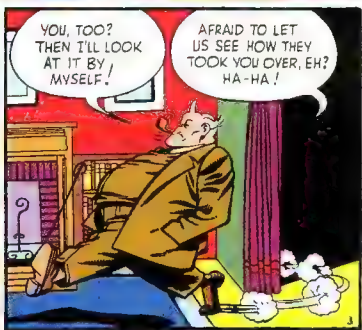
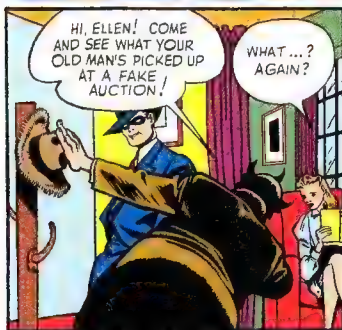
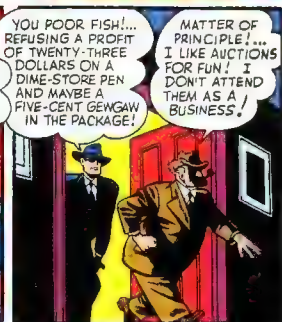
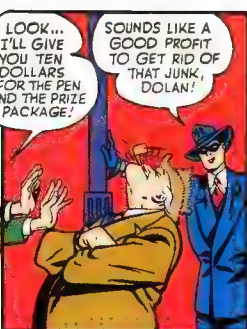


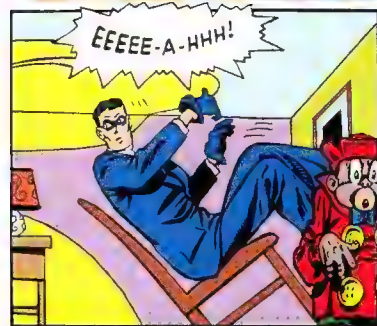
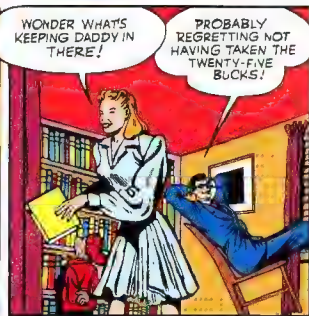
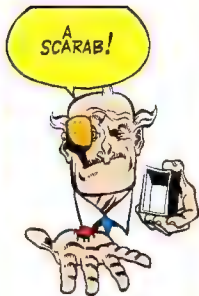
ONE
DOLLAR!

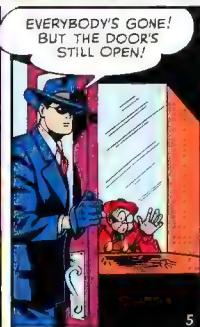
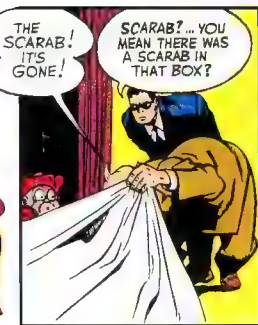
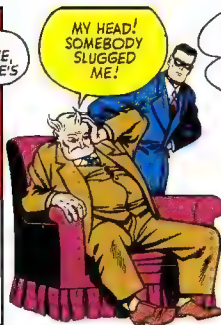
THE MAN BIDS ONE
DOLLAR! SHAME! ...
SHAME! ONE DOLLAR
FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL
PEN ... AND THE
MYSTERY
PACKAGE.

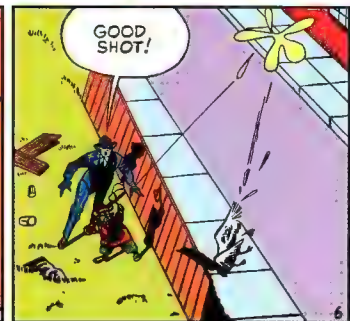
I'LL
MAKE IT
TWO! ...

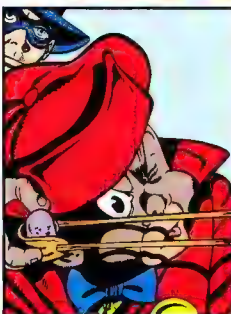
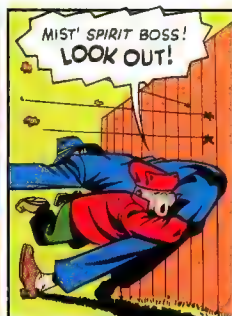












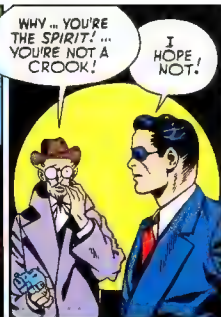


THIS'LL
MAKE YOU
FEEL AWFUL
AGAIN!

NOW... LET'S
HAVE THE
STORY!

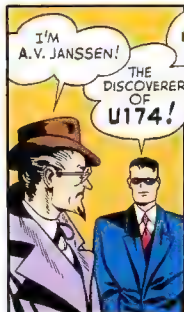


HAND
OVER
THAT
SCARAB!



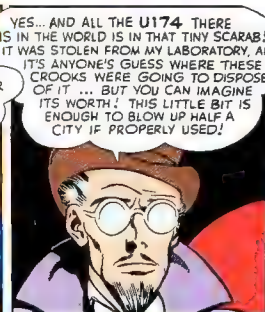
WHY ... YOU'RE
THE SPIRIT! ...
YOU'RE NOT A
CROOK!

I
HOPE!
NOT!



I'M
A.V. JANSSEN!

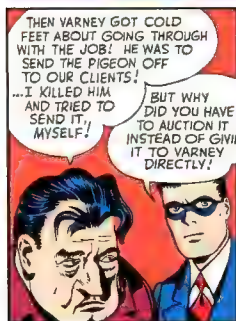
THE
DISCOVERER
OF
U174!



YES... AND ALL THE U174 THERE
IS IN THE WORLD IS IN THAT TINY SCARAB!
IT WAS STOLEN FROM MY LABORATORY, AND
IT'S ANYONE'S GUESS WHERE THESE
CROOKS WERE GOING TO DISPOSE
OF IT ... BUT YOU CAN IMAGINE
ITS WORTH! THIS LITTLE BIT IS
ENOUGH TO BLOW UP HALF A
CITY IF PROPERLY USED!



THE PACKAGE WAS AUCTIONED
TO DOLAN BY MISTAKE! IT
WAS SUPPOSED TO GO TO
VARNEY, THE GUY I STABBED!
...WHEN WE REALIZED OUR
MISTAKE, VARNEY HAD TO
SLUG DOLAN TO
GET IT!

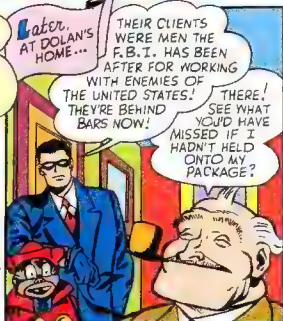


THEN VARNEY GOT COLD
FEET ABOUT GOING THROUGH
WITH THE JOB! HE WAS TO
SEND THE PIGEON OFF
TO OUR CLIENTS!
...I KILLED HIM
AND TRIED TO
SEND IT,
MYSELF!

BUT WHY
DID YOU HAVE
TO AUCTION IT
INSTEAD OF GIVING
IT TO VARNEY
DIRECTLY!



BECAUSE OUR
CLIENTS WERE AFRAID
TO LET US HAVE
DIRECT CONTACT
WITH EACH OTHER!
THEY FIGURED ON
AVOIDING DISCOVERY
THAT WAY!



Later,
AT DOLAN'S
HOME...

THEIR CLIENTS
WERE MEN THE
F.B.I. HAS BEEN
AFTER FOR WORKING
WITH ENEMIES OF
THE UNITED STATES!
THEY'RE BEHIND
BARS NOW!

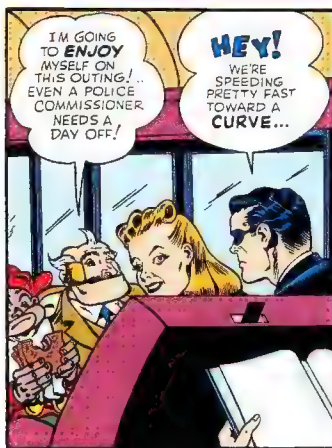
THERE!
SEE WHAT
YOU'D HAVE
MISSED IF I
HADN'T HELD
ONTO MY
PACKAGE?

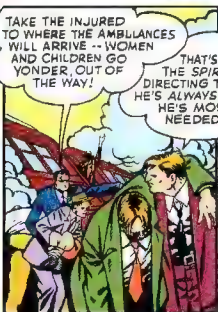
**COMIC
BOOK
SECTION**

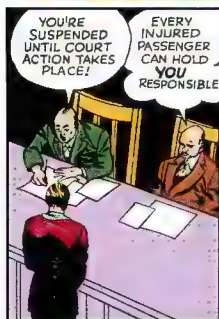
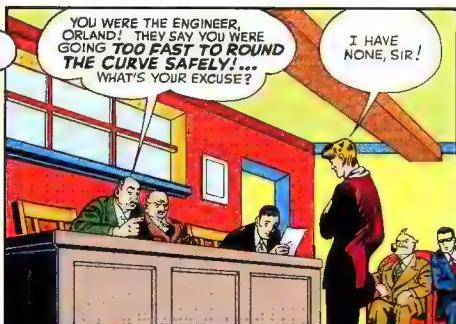
THE TRAIN WRECK

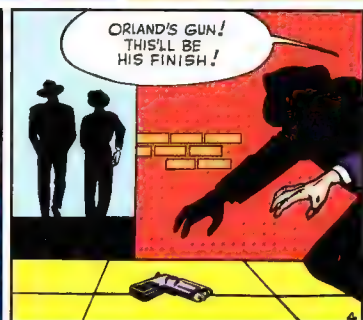
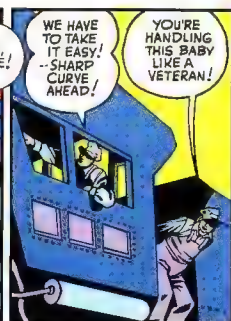
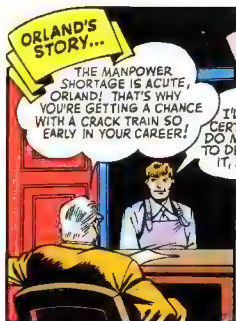
December 12, 1943

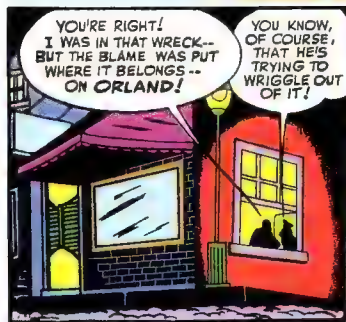
**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**













HERE IT IS -- JUST
WHERE IT SHOULD BE --
THE CIGARETTE BUTT
THAT ORLAND
THREW AWAY!



AND IT HAS
MORE THAN
TOBACCO
IN IT!



OPIUM! ORLAND SMOKED
IT -- SLOWED HIS REACTIONS
-- THOUGHT HE WAS GOING
SLOWER THAN HE
REALLY WAS!



AND HERE'S WHERE
THE TRAIN JUMPED THE
TRACK -- RAIL TORN
LOOSE FROM THE
TIES!

AH!



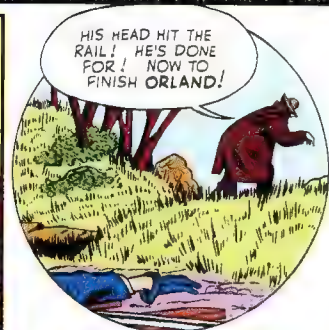
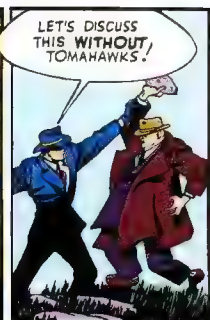
BUT SOME SPIKES
WERE TORN LOOSE --
THEY WERE CUT IN
ADVANCE!



THE OPIUM MADE
THE WRECK **PROBABLE...**
THIS SABOTAGE MADE
THE WRECK
CERTAIN!

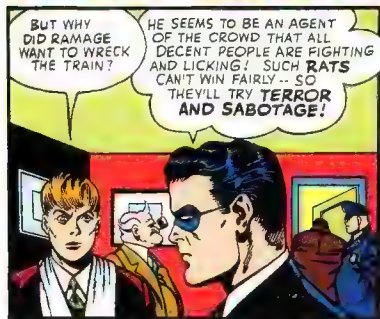
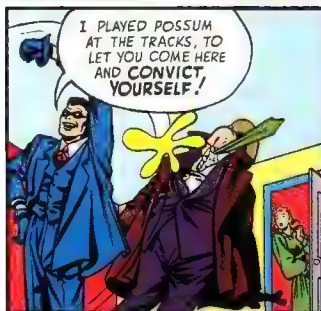


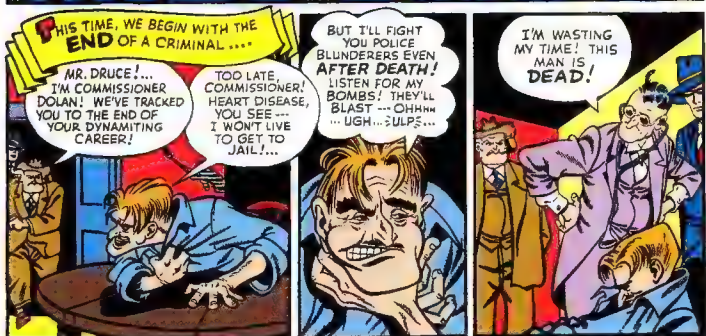
THEN, WITH A LITTLE
EXTRA SPEED, THE TRAIN
HIT THE CURVE AND
**TORE THE TRACK
LOOSE!**

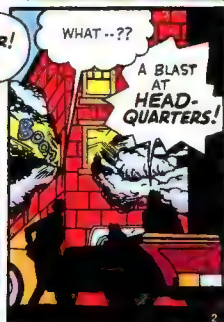
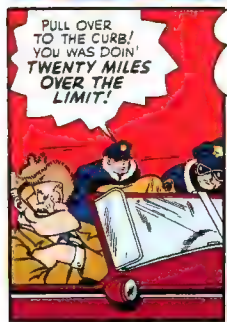
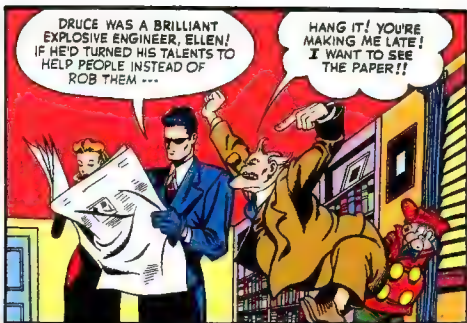
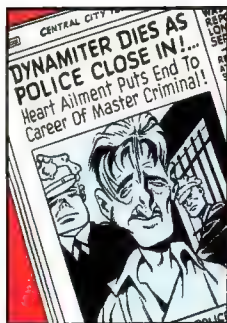


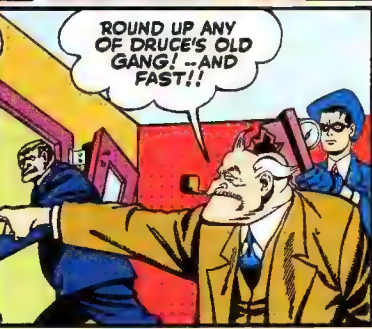
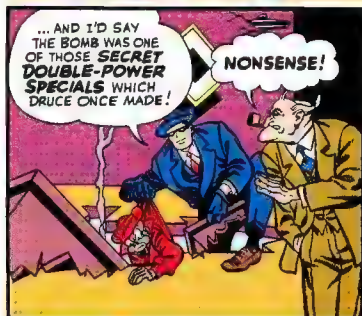
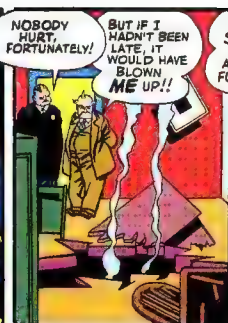
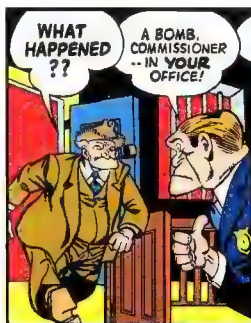


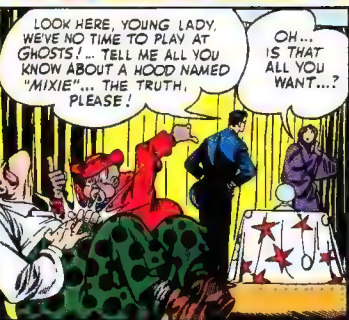
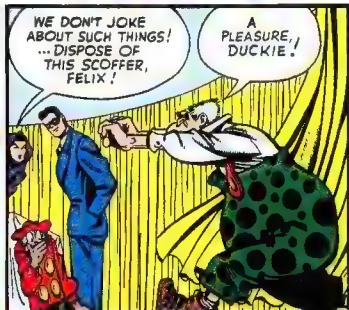
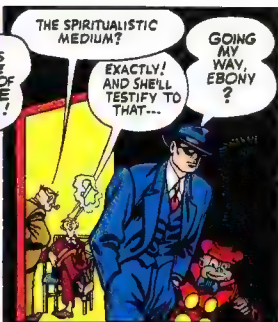
NO! DON'T FRET! EVERYTHING'S FIXED!

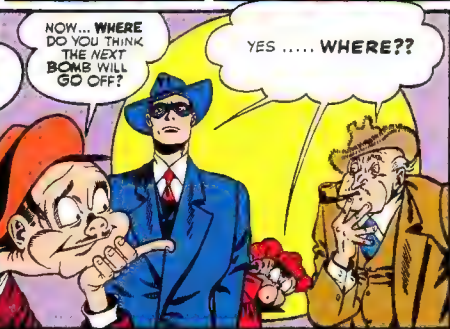
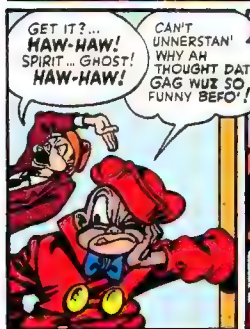
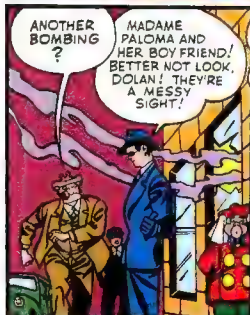














CALM DOWN, DADDY! DON'T GET SO EXCITED!

EXCITED?... YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS! I NEVER GET EXCITED!



BIG POLICE EXECUTIVES LIKE ME MUST HAVE CONTROL-- CONTROL!!

AFTER ALL, YOU AND I BOTH ESCAPED BEING BOMBED!



SEE?!



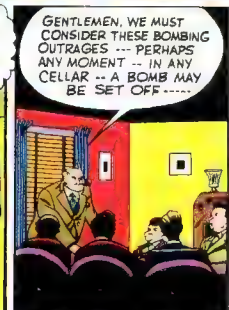
BUT THE NEXT MIGHT GET ANYBODY! --EVEN ELLEN!

WHY NOT SUMMON ALL YOUR BEST MEN FOR A CONFERENCE?

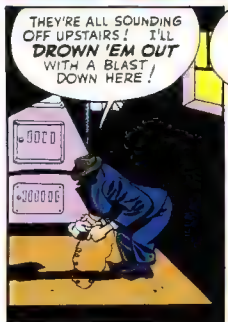


THAT'S RIGHT! I'LL CALL THE MAYOR--DISTRICT ATTORNEY-- MY CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES---

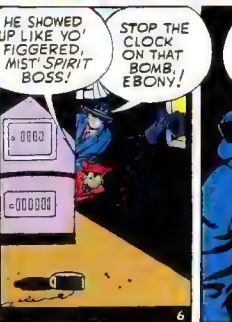
I'VE BAITED A TRAP WITH A LOT OF VALUABLE LIVES!!



GENTLEMEN, WE MUST CONSIDER THESE BOMBING OUTRAGES --- PERHAPS ANY MOMENT -- IN ANY CELLAR -- A BOMB MAY BE SET OFF -----



THEY'RE ALL SOUNDING OFF UPSTAIRS! I'LL DROWN 'EM OUT WITH A BLAST DOWN HERE!



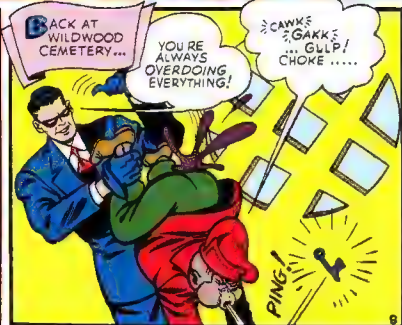
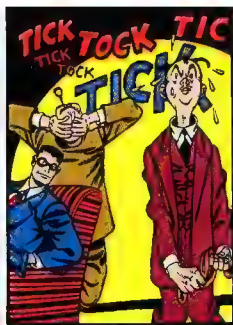
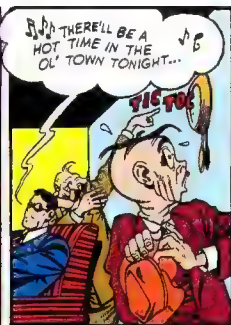
HE SHOWED UP LIKE YO' FIGGERED, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!

STOP THE CLOCK ON THAT BOMB, EBONY!



HE GOT AWAY!... DID YOU STOP THE CLOCK, EBONY!

YASSUH!... AIN'T NO MO' TICKS IN IT!



**COMIC
BOOK
SECTION**

CLOAK AND COFFIN

December 26, 1943

**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**



